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FBIS-NES-89-135 CONTENTS 17 July 1989

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Interviewed on U.S. Dialogue, Syria *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 15 Jul]* 1
    Interviewed by AL-JUMHURIYAH *[Cairo, 12 Jul]* 2
PLO's Khalaf Cited on U.S. Dialogue, Intifadah *[WAKH]* 3
PLO Official Comments on Dumas Remarks *[MENA]* 3
PLO Protests to U.S. Over Kelly's Remarks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
    Further on PLO Reaction *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Paper Notes 'Arafat Sorrow Over Bus Incident *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 15 Jul]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Peace 'Blueprint' Reportedly Passed to Israel *[AL-WAFD 12 Jul]* 5
'Arafat Reportedly Informs Mubarak of 'Plan' *[AL-WAFD 14 Jul]* 5
Official Denies Contacts With Iran *[INA]* 6
Further Reportage on Leaders' Visit to Paris 6
    'Abd-al-Majid News Conference *[MENA]* 6
    Mubarak Meets Gandhi, Thatcher *[Cairo Radio]* 7
    Mubarak Meets Cyprus' Vasiliou *[Cairo Radio]* 7
    Mubarak, Congolese President Meet *[Cairo Radio]* 8
    Mubarak on North-South Dialogue *[MENA]* 8
    Mubarak Departs Paris 15 Jul *[MENA]* 8
    Mubarak Comments on Return *[MENA]* 8
Mubarak Interviewed on ACC, Domestic Issues *[AL-AHRAM 12 Jul]* 9
Cairo Radio Comments on Israeli Settlers 11

Mauritania

Information Minister Comments on Deportations *[Paris International]* 11
    Further on Comments *[Nouakchott Radio]* 11
    Relations Plummet to 'New Low' *[BBC]* 12
More Expulsions to Senegal Reported *[BBC]* 12

Morocco

King Receives Al-Qadhdhafi's Personal Envoy *[Rabat Radio]* 13
    Envoy Comments, Departs *[Rabat Radio]* 13
Kingdom Assumes Maghreb Union Presidency *[MAP]* 13
King Issues Pardon To Mark 'Id al-Adha *[Rabat Radio]* 13

Sudan

Al-Bashir Seeks To Normalize Ties With USSR *[MENA]* 13
    Further on Prospective Ties *[KUNA]* 14
Further on Denial of Separation of South *[Al-Dammam AL-YAWM 14 Jul]* 14
Strong Support for Saudi Arabia Voiced *[SUNA]* 15

Corruption Trial To Begin in 'Next 2 Days' [Om 15

Corruption Trial To Begin in 'Next 2 Days' *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
    Further on Trial *[Cairo Radio]* 15

Tunisia

- Arab League's Chedli Klibi Deplores Mecca Blasts *[APS]* 15

Western Sahara

- Polisario Accuses Morocco of 'Blackmail' *[Algiers Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

PDRY

- Foreign Minister Meets Cuba's Mazola 11 July *[Aden Radio]* 16

Saudi Arabia

- Another Explosion in Mecca; No Casualties *[SPA]* 16
- King Fahd, Crown Prince Issue Address to Pilgrims *[SPA]* 16
- Paper Condemns Sabotage Against Holy Places *[AL-YAWM 13 Jul]* 18
- AL-YAWM: Iran Behind Mecca Explosions *[12 Jul]* 19
- Iraqi Official Visits Hajj Mission *[Baghdad Voice of the Masses]* 19

United Arab Emirates

- Sudanese Command Council Official Arrives *[WAKH]* 19

Yemen Arab Republic

- Foreign Minister Leaves for Iraq 16 Jul *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

IRAQ

- Embassy States Iranian Agents Killed Qasemlu *[INA]* 21
- Delegations Arrive for Anniversary Celebrations *[Voice of the Masses]* 21
  - Soviet Delegation Arrives *[INA]* 21
  - GDR, Hungarian Delegations Arrive *[INA]* 21
- INA Cites Bush Cable to Saddam on Anniversary *[INA]* 22
- Interior Minister Returns From Argentina *[INA]* 22
- AL-THAWRAH on Missiles, Syrian Reaction *[13 Jul]* 22

ISRAEL

- Arens, Palestinians Hold Series of Meetings *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Jul]* 24
  - Arens' Comments Cited *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
- 'Satisfaction' With Baker Remarks Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
  - Jerusalem 'Split' on Meaning *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
  - U.S.-PLO Dealings Reported *[HA'ARETZ 17 Jul]* 25
  - 'Moment of Truth' Said Near *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
- No 'Understanding' Reached in Cabinet Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
  - More on Cabinet Meeting *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Jul]* 26
- Senior Alignment Members Offer Counterconditions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
  - New Cabinet Vote Demanded *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
- Shamir on Likud Resolution, Government Crisis *[HA'ARETZ 14 Jul]* 27
- Shamir Urged To Disavow Likud Resolution *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jul]* 31
- Air Force Commander Warns of Drop in 'Readiness' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Jul]* 31
  - Rabin on Budget Cut *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- West Bank Schools To Begin Reopening 22 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
  - Principals Express 'Satisfaction' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
- Jewish Presence in Old City Increasing *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
- 2 Youths Killed in Gaza Strip 14 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
  - More on 14, 15 Jul Incidents *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33

More on 14, 15 Jul Incidents *[Jerusalem Radio]* ....

- 16 Jul Incidents in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 17 Jul]* 33
- Hamas Leaflet Demands End to PLO-U.S. Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34

JORDAN

- King Husayn Comments on Internal Scene, Elections *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Jul]* 35
- King Husayn Says Shamir Plan 'Unacceptable' *[Amman Radio]* 35
- Minister Says Paris Announcement 'Positive Stand' *[Amman Radio]* 35
- Jerusalem Notes Decline in Currency Reserves 36

LEBANON

- Lifting Blockades, Deputies' Meetings Noted *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 12 Jul]* 37
- AFP: Tanker Breaks Through Syrian Blockade 37
- Syrian Gunboats Leave Waters Off Eastern Areas *[VOL]* 37
- Syrian Warships Withdraw To Avoid Israeli Vessels *[RFL]* 37
- Amal, Hizballah Clash in West Beirut 37
  - 1 Killed, 4 Injured *[VOL]* 38
- SLA Shells Towns, Warns Palestinians *[VOL]* 38
- Al-Huss Comments on Security Deterioration *[Beirut Radio]* 38
- Al-Husayni on 'Awn's Failure To Divide Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 38

SYRIA

- Foreign Minister Interviewed on Regional Issues *[London AL-MAJALLAH 12-18 Jul]* 39
- 'Awn Seen As 'Stumbling Block' to Solution *[Damascus Radio]* 40
- AL-BA'TH Assails Israeli 'Deception' *[Damascus Radio]* 40
- NPF Delegation Leaves for Bulgaria 16 Jul *[Damascus Radio]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Najibullah Asks Bush To End Pakistani Aggression *[Kabul Radio]* 41
  - More on Najibullah Request *[AFP]* 41
- 'Massive' Car Bomb Explodes in Kabul 15 Jul *[AFP]* 41
  - BAKHTAR Notes Casualties 42
  - Security Tightened as Deaths Rise *[AFP]* 42
- 9 Missiles Fired on Kabul; Hospital Hit *[Kabul Radio]* 42
- 19 Rockets Hit kabul Residential Areas *[Kabul Radio]* 42
- Mujahidin Preparing for Major Attack on Qandahar *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
- Kabul Notes 'Extremists' Defeat in Nangarhar 42
- Mujahidin Capture 'Strategic Positions' in Khowst *[Islamabad International]* 43
  - More on 'Strategic' Capture *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
- 41 Rebels Killed in Attack on Jalalabad Suburbs *[Kabul International]* 43
- Security Seizes Stinger, Blowpipe Missiles *[BAKHTAR]* 43
- Egyptian 'Spy' Holds News Conference *[Kabul Radio]* 43

India

- Spokesman on Premadasa Reply to Gandhi Message *[Delhi TV]* 44
  - Deshmukh Returns to Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* 44
- Gandhi Returns From Europe, Pakistan Trips *[Delhi Radio]* 44
  - Comments on Sri Lanka Situation *[AFP]* 44
- Gandhi Expresses 'Shock' at Tamil Leaders' Murder *[Delhi Radio]* 45
- External Affairs Minister Condemns Killings *[Delhi Radio]* 45
- Armed Forces Special Powers Act Imposed in Assam *[Delhi Radio]* 45
- 10 Persons Injured in Bomb Explosion in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 45

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 46
    Second Sermon 46
President's Message on 40th Mourning Day *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Outlines 4-Year Program *[IRNA]* 50
Kurdish-Iranian Meeting in Vienna Attacked *[Tehran Radio]* 52
    Qasemlu Killed; Mohtashemi Comments *[IRNA]* 52
    Austria Urged To Investigate *[IRNA]* 52
    Iranian Kurds Blame Tehran *[DER STANDARD 17 Jul]* 52
    Further Report *[AFP]* 52
Paper Warns of U.S. 'Conspiracy' in Afghanistan *[IRNA]* 53
Delegation Departs for Moscow Gas Exports Talks *[IRNA]* 53
Paper on U.S.-Installed 'Idols' in Mecca *[IRNA]* 54
Mohtashemi Assails Saudis at Friday Prayers *[IRNA]* 54
Mohtashemi Comments on Elections, 'Spy Ring' *[IRNA]* 54
Velayati Blames Iraq for Stalled Peace Talks *[IRNA]* 55
Lebanese Figures Meets Velayati, Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 55
Lebanese, Palestinian Groups Meet in Tehran *[IRNA]* 55
    Velayati on Joint Talks *[Tehran TV]* 56
    Joint Statement Calls for Unity *[IRNA]* 56
    Velayati Meets With Lebanese *[IRNA]* 57

Pakistan

Indian Prime Minister Makes Official Visit 57
    Security Tight for Visit *[AFP]* 57
    Met by Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
    Talks Aim at Better Relations *[Delhi Radio]* 58
    Bhutto on Siachen, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
    Gandhi Urges Peaceful Coexistence *[Delhi Radio]* 59
    Banquet Speeches Detailed *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
    Delhi Notes 16 Jul Talks 60
    Ishaq Khan, Gandhi Confer *[Islamabad Radio]* 61
    President on 'Hegemonic Designs' *[AFP]* 61
    Bhutto, Gandhi News Conference *[AFP]* 62
    Further on News Conference *[Islamabad International]* 62
    Gandhi Departs 17 Jul *[Islamabad Radio]* 63
Kashmiris Stage Protest Rally Against India *[Islamabad Radio]* 63

Sri Lanka

Government, Tamils React to Leaders' Murder 63
    LTTE Denies Involvement *[AFP]* 63
    LTTE 'Deleted' From Allegations *[AFP]* 64
    EPRLF on Responsibility *[AFP]* 64
    Premadasa Orders Investigation *[Delhi TV]* 65
    Bodies Flown to Trincomalee *[AFP]* 65
    Thousands Pay Last Respects *[AFP]* 65
    Premadasa 'Booed' in Trincomalee *[AFP]* 66
    Mob Stones President's Car *[Delhi TV]* 66
    Assassins Identified as LTTE *[AFP]* 66
    'Expelled' BBC Correspondent Comments *[BBC]* 67
Tamil Party Calls for Opposition Meeting *[AFP]* 67
Security Forces Order Closure of Universities *[Colombo International]* 68
Government Warns of Bomb Attacks by Militants *[AFP]* 68
Premadasa Warns of External Plot, Urges Unity *[Colombo International]* 68
    Reiterates Call for IPKF Withdrawal *[AFP]* 69
    Delhi TV Cites Premadasa Letter 69
    Premadasa Reply to Gandhi *[Colombo International]* 70
Provincial Council Calls For Talks With India *[AFP]* 71

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Interviewed on U.S. Dialogue, Syria

JN1607161389 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
15 Jul 89 p 23

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Hasayn] As you know, the Likud Party has endorsed Shamir's elections plan, thus disrupting peace efforts, including the American-Palestinian dialogue, which you partly lead. What do you think?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Likud Party meetings have dug a hole in the true nature of the so-called elections project. It thus becomes clear that the PLO took a realistic stand on this sham project. We have argued that Shamir's plan is a ploy designed to put down the intifadah [uprising] and turn the attention of the international community away from the crux of the conflict and provide a cover for pursuing the repression of our people in the occupied land. Consequently, the conditions attached by the Likud Central Committee meeting came to bear us out. We have said all along that there can be no elections outside the framework of an overall political settlement and that such a solution must involve an end to occupation and Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

Election apologists have been disappointed and frustrated, particularly in Washington, where a school of thought argued that the elections could provide a launching pad and that it could be developed. It is now evident that Shamir's plan set out to perpetuate and legitimize occupation.

[Abu-Husayn] Is this to say that the U.S. Administration had been privy to Shamir's plan?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Shamir plan has embarrassed the U.S. Administration, which had wanted all the parties including the PLO to limit their demands to an improvement in procedural and administrative terms of the elections while disregarding basic political demands, especially concerning total Israeli withdrawal, self-determination, and the international conference. Hence, the Likud announcement was nothing more than an elucidation of the true goals and intentions of Shamir's plan, through which he had sought to conceal his true face.

[Abu-Husayn] Is it fair to say that you have been convinced by the Likud Central Committee's endorsement of Shamir's plan that you were discussing an illusion in your official dialogue with the United States?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We did say that we were discussing an illusion. However, we viewed the Palestinian-American dialogue as just one step of many toward paving the ground for peace talks within the framework of the international conference. The dialogue addressed the foundations of the peace process. If the United States lately talked about its role in ending occupation and an exchange of land for peace and came out in principle for the international conference, its position remains obscure regarding the Palestinian people's rights and it confined itself to talking about the political rights of the Palestinians. We have time and again urged the U.S. Administration to be clear-cut insofar as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and indpendence are concerned, in common with other peoples. Once the United States makes an unambiguous statement, we then can move to a discussion of the practicalities of the international conference.

Rather than propel the Middle East peace process forward, the American policies have reached a dead end and failed to realize any goal.

[Abu-Husayn] If the U.S. Administration is serious about a settlement, why does it not work for a congressional endorsement of Bush's principles calling for an end to occupation?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We have demanded that there be an American political declaration enshrining the basic principles of the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory and for self-determination. From there we can then proceed to discuss procedure and detail.

[Abu-Husayn] Did you make this demand through your dialogue with the Americans? And how did they react? And did your demand strike a responsive cord?

['Abd-Rabbuh] To date, withdrawal and Palestinian self-determination have been at the center of our dialogue. If the United States insists on addressing side and marginal issues rather than issues of substance, we will end up making no headway in the direction of a settlement. There has as yet been no progress toward a political settlement. If the Americans make some positive statements on the peace process, we take these very seriously, especially when they translate into reality. To date, it cannot be said that the statements coming out from the U.S. Administration have been translated into practice. Ironically, the U.S. Administration has declared that it does not stand for continued occupation, and at the same time it portrayed Shamir's plan as a positive project that could mark the beginning of the peace process. The two are incompatible.

[Abu-Husayn] Can you tell us about the memorandums you exchange with the U.S. Administration, whether through the dialogue or outside of it?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The exhange of memorandums is an ongoing affair, with each side spelling out its position on key issues. For our part, we have presented a memorandum with a number of questions about the U.S. perception of the Palestinian people's political rights. Our perception of these boil down to self-determination and independence. We have also asked about the U.S. stand on Israeli terror, which is being systematically exercised against our people in the occupied land.

In any case, we do not view the dialogue with the Americans as an end in itself. We are interested in the dialogue to the extent that it may help the peace process. When the dialogue ceases to have an impact on the peace process, it will have lost its relevance and function.

[Abu-Husayn] What purpose should the American-Palestinian dialogue serve in the future?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We want the U.S. Administration to provide answers to the following questions:

1. Where does it stand on the Madrid summit resolution, which counts as a balanced position from which the peace process can take off?

2. What is the U.S. position on the Israeli stand, which obstructs the peace process? The Israelis have spelled out their obstructive position rejecting all international resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 242.

[Abu-Husayn] Has a date been fixed for the next phase of the U.S.-PLO dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] A date for the resumption of the official dialogue between the PLO and the United States has so far not been fixed.

[Abu-Husayn] How do you explain the switch in the U.S. stand from adopting the Shamir elections plan to the subject of the international conference?

['Abd-Rabbuh] It is useful that the United States should now call for the need to move toward convening the international peace conference. This is real progress compared to its previous stands, when it insisted on the formula of separate or bilateral solutions and attempted to ignore the central issue, which is the Palestinian people's rights. In any case, the issue of the international conference was within the framework of the continuous discussions between us and the Americans, the Europeans, and all the parties concerned, especially the Soviet Union, which emphasized the need for the international conference and for effective preparations for it. We believe that the stronger trend now is to win the agreement that the international conference is the real framework for the peace process. We are also holding contacts and discussions within the process of preparing for the conference, because it is very hard to conceive of any other framework for a just settlement in the region. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What will be the first move in convening an international conference?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We call for holding a preparatory meeting of the five Arab states concerned with the issue as the Casablanca summit has decided. No serious effort has yet been exerted to implement this call. We are carrying out extensive efforts to convene the Arab five-member committee as soon as possible. During my visit to Egypt, I discussed this issue with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, foreign minister, and with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. We also discussed it with the Jordanian Government and will shortly discuss it with the Syrian leadership as well. Efforts are also under way to convene a meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council with the aim of preparing for the international conference. All these steps are being taken within an even-handed approach until we are able to agree on a formula for the international conference as the only framework for the process of a settlement in the region.

[Abu-Husayn] Has Syria agreed to participate in the Arab five-member committee to prepare for the international conference?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Intensive contacts were held recently through the Algerian brothers. They have played a major role in paving the way for the success of the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue. A Syrian-Palestinian meeting will be held in Damascus within the next few weeks and the issue of implementing the Casablanca resolutions will top the agenda of the meeting, and hence a date will be fixed for the five-member committee meeting with Syria's participation.

Interviewed by AL-JUMHURIYAH

JN1507192189 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 89 p 2

[By Sumayyah Ahmad]

[Text] Over a 2-day period in Cairo, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, second-in-command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and head of the Palestinian side to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue sessions, met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to discuss the latest developments of the Palestine question on the international scene.

In his interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh paid tribute to the efforts being exerted by Egypt and President Mubarak to secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state and to bring about the convening of an international peace conference. He affirmed that his talks as a DFLP representative in Egypt fall within the framework of the positive and developed Palestinian-Egyptian relations. He added that these talks are a manifestation of the development being witnessed by these relations, the enhancement of which is sought by the two sides.

'Abd-Rabbuh went on to say that DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah will visit Egypt next month.

On the U.S decision to upgrade the level of the dialogue being held with the PLO, the head of the Palestinian side to the dialogue sessions said: We are not interested in upgrading the level of the dialogue with the United States. What concerns us is to see the U.S. political stand developed, especially regarding recognition by the United States of our people's rights to self-determination and independence under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

On the stand regarding the recent Likud decisions, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that these decisions have not only killed the continued peace process, but they have also laid to rest the illusion and lies that Shamir had a peace plan.

Regarding the latest developments of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, considering that he is the head of the Palestinian side to the dialogue sessions, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We view the dialogue with the United States as part of the preparations for the international conference. There is no doubt that this is a complicated and thorny issue. The only positive development in this dialogue might be that we have embarked on a discussion of substantive issues. However, I cannot say right now that adequate progress has been made in the dialogue so far, as launching the peace process requires identifying the bases capable of securing the success of this process. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh added that there are some U.S. stands that constitute important elements, such as the statements on the need to terminate the occupation and exchange land for peace. However, the United States has continued to refrain from giving a clear definition of what it calls the Palestinian people's political rights, 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

It is being said that Israel has thrown the elections ball in the Palestinian court amid international support for the concept of elections that you reject? He said: The elections must be part of an integrated peace process. Democratic practice cannot be separated from freedom for all the people. We not only agree on elections, but we call for them, on the condition that they are linked to the end of Israeli occupation. The conditions on elections are not the most important issue to us, but to know where these elections would lead. Would they lead to the termination of occupation, or would they give legitimacy to occupation, which is the objective of Shamir's plan? Shamir himself explained the objectives of his plan through the recent Likud resolutions.

Regarding the escalation of repressive measures and violence in the occupied territories, he said: We raise the political program of the intifadah [uprising] in the face of the program of repression, terrorism, and the continuing occupation as adopted by the Israeli Government. The intifadah will continue to escalate until the world realizes that the only way out of this conflict is the political solution through the international conference.

On the possibility of holding the international conference at the end of this year, he said: Perhaps preparations for this conference would be completed this year in accordance with several previous proposals which are still valid. Preparations can take place on various levels, including the holding of a meeting for the UN Security Council five permanent member states and dialogues and contacts among all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO and the Israeli Government, in accordance with the Egyptian proposal in this regard, which was rejected by Israel. The major obstacle to holding the international conference is the Israeli stand. In fact, it is an obstacle to any progress in the peace process.

PLO's Khalaf Cited on U.S. Dialogue, Intifadah

JN1607091689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, 16 Jul (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, has said that the continuation of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue the way it has been proceeding will not benefit the Palestine question, particularly as the Americans have not provided answers to the Palestinian questions posed by the PLO during the first dialogue session.

In a statement published by the newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ this morning, Abu-Iyad said that he informed the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, that the meetings PLO officials hold with them [the Americans] cannot be kept secret.

Khalaf spoke on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. He indicated that the escalation of Israeli repression and violence against the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is linked to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington in April and U.S. support for his election plan.

Khalaf pointed out that the appointment of new Israeli generals—especially Yitzhaq Mordekhay, who is notorious for his savagery and who succeeded General 'Amram Mitzna' as commander of the West Bank—the escalation of the violence being perpetrated by Jewish settlers against the Palestinian people, and the increasing number of Palestinian martyrs and wounded show that there is an upsurge in the mode of this violence.

Abu-Iyad said that the Arab stand has not risen to the required level. He indicated that the committee formed at the Casablanca summit to follow up political efforts on the international scene has so far not met.

PLO Official Comments on Dumas Remarks

NC1607162589 Cairo MENA in English 1515 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, July 16 (MENA)—An official Palestinian source here expressed today the PLO support for the statement by the seven's foreign ministers of the industrialised countries on holding the international Mideast peace conference.

The source said that these statements were very encouraging and represented a positive stance.

The source further expressed hope that stance would positively reflect on the U.S. Administration's policy towards the Palestinian issue and bring the industrialised countries to pressure Israel into accepting the idea of holding the international peace conference and of recognising the PLO.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in the name of the industrialised countries has said that the seven thought an international Mideast conference could promote a dialogue among all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PLO Protests to U.S. Over Kelly's Remarks

JN1607174489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The PLO has handed a memorandum to the U.S. Administration in which it criticizes the retreating position represented by the recent statement by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. Kelly told the Middle East committee in the U.S. Congress that Washington continued to consider Shamir's plan, which the Israeli Government approved, for holding elections in the occupied territory, to be the basis for any settlement, adding that 6 months of dialogue with the PLO has not reached a tangible result and that this dialogue will not continue indefinitely.

Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi handed the memorandum to U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau. A Palestinian source said that the PLO considers Kelly's statement a retreat from the previous U.S. stand on the U.S.-PLO dialogue and an attempt to interpret this dialogue differently. The PLO recalled that when the dialogue was declared last December, it was emphasized that this dialogue is substantive and does not cover for Israel's political maneuvers or Israel's policy of terror and repression.

The same source added that Bal'awi told Pelletreau of the PLO's concern over the escalation of Israel's repression in the occupied territory and the U.S. Administration's negative stand toward Israel's practices.

Further on PLO Reaction

JN1607180789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] An official Palestinian source today declared the PLO's support for yesterday's announcement by the foreign ministers of the seven major industrialized nations on convening an international Middle East peace conference. The PLO, added the source, views the announcement as a positive stand confirming the justice of the call for the international conference made by the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

The source hoped the announcement will have a positive impact on the U.S. Administration's policy on the Palestinian cause and that the industrialized nations will bring pressure to bear on the Zionist entity to accept the notion of the international conference and to recognize the PLO.

Paper Notes 'Arafat Sorrow Over Bus Incident

JN1607132389 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Washington, AFP—The United States has expressed satisfaction over Israel's decision to reopen schools in the West Bank and over Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's expression of sorrow over the Israeli bus incident which occurred last week.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher stated: We are pleased over Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's announcement on the reopening of West Bank schools. We hope this measure will lead to new positive steps by the Palestinians and Israelis to build confidence.

The spokesman also praised statements made by 'Arafat in Tunis to the U.S. Hearst newspaper group in which he expressed sorrow and pain for the victims. Boucher said that 'Arafat also noted the need to stop bloodletting. He added: We welcome these statements.

Egypt

Peace 'Blueprint' Reportedly Passed to Israel

JN1507200889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
12 Jul 89 pp 1, 6

[By Mustafa Bakri]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Egypt recently communicated to the Israeli Government the outlines of a blueprint for Middle East peace. The project, which seeks to convene a UN-sponsored regional conference, is based on a number of points:

- —Egypt shall brief the Arab parties on Israel's answers to 10 questions it had put to Israel.
- —The Egyptian and Jordanian Foreign Ministries, along with a PLO delegation, shall compare the Israeli answers with the Arab position on the proposed elections in the occupied land.
- —The Arab parties shall put their viewpoint to the Israeli Government with the object of obligating it to commit itself on sitting with the Arab parties to discuss the Arab standpoint.
- —A regional conference grouping Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and Syria shall be convened and kick off with a preparatory meeting to agree on the modalities of holding elections in the occupied land with the proviso that the two meetings be UN-supervised.
- —During the preparatory stage for the conference, the Arab parties shall ask the Palestinians in the occupied territories to call a provisional truce, subject to an Israeli commitment to cessation of all military measures against the Palestinians there.
- —The conference shall confine itself to looking into the practicalities of conducting the elections without addressing any other issues related to the peace process in the region.
- —The Israeli Government shall be committed to whatever is reached, and the UN secretary general shall be tasked with putting into force the results achieved. Israel and the United States will be expected to implement these measures with the necessary speed.
- —At the completion of this step, Egypt and Israel shall pursue direct contacts to agree on the next peace moves. Israel shall have to accept in principle the role of the international parties in promoting final peace with the Arabs.

Egypt had stipulated that before the plan is initiated in earnest, Israel must reverse its recent position and reconsider its answers to the Egyptian questions to allow for free and fair elections. Rubinstein, secretary general of the American [as published] Administration, who visited Cairo the day before yesterday, carried with him some of the answers to the Egyptian queries. These reiterated Israeli refusal to evacuate the occupied Arab land and rejection of international supervison of the elections and any role for the PLO as well as any participation of the East Jerusalem residents in the elections. AL-WAFD has learned that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens asked Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid when he called from Tel Aviv that Israel be given a chance to reappraise its position. Arens said he was ready for a meeting with 'Abd-al-Majid in Cairo or in any other capital. The Egyptian minister stipulated that for such a meeting to take place there first be a change in Israel's position.

'Arafat Reportedly Informs Mubarak of 'Plan'

JN1507181289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
14 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[By Mustafa Bakri]

[Text] During their talks the day before yesterday, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat informed President Husni Mubarak of a new Palestinian peace plan. The new Palestinian peace plan is based on several principles. Among these principles is that President Mubarak shall inform the leaders of the big powers of the need to agree with the United States and the USSR to draft a specific formula regarding the contents of the peace plan that could be achieved in the region, provided that the peace plan be based on UN resolutions. The new peace plan also includes a specific timetable for its implementation. The new plan shall be prepared with the participation of the UN secretary general. Following the preparation of the plan, the UN secretary general shall invite the parties to the conflict to meet and to hold negotiations on the new plan. In case Israel refuses to participate, it should be subject to international sanctions.

AL-WAFD has learned that 'Arafat asked President Mubarak to discuss the Palestinian plan with the leaders of the big powers with whom he will meet in Paris.

On the other hand, President Mubarak has stressed that the current situation in Israel will produce serious consequences inside Israel itself, particularly in light of the collapse of the ruling coalition as a result of the recent Israeli conditions set by the Likud to hold elections inside the occupied territories. Mubarak stressed to 'Arafat that he will not allow Shamir to obstruct the peace process in the region. He said that Egypt will not hesitate to use all means to pressure the Israeli prime minister to make him agree on peace measures and on the convening of the international conference.

During the meeting, 'Arafat revealed new Israeli plans to quell the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and to carry out a large-scale campaign of assassinations among the ranks of the Palestinian revolution.

AL-WAFD also learned that there is a possibility of holding another meeting between the two leaders soon after President Mubarak's return from Paris to discuss new developments in the situation.

Official Denies Contacts With Iran

JN1607155589 Baghdad INA in English 1532 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, July 16, INA—An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official denied the existence of any initiative for contacting Iran through mediators to settle the Iranian-Egyptian relations.

In a statement to INA correspondent here, the Egyptian official renewed Egypt's firm position towards the relations with Iran and said in reply to news reports published recently that Egypt does not harbour any enmity to Iran and at the same time Egypt would not succumb to blackmail or squander its national stand.

He stressed that Egypt would be fully ready to restore relations with Iran when it becomes certain that that country would distance itself from the aggressive course, resort to peace and respect the policy of good neighbourhood [as received] and non-interference in the Arab countries' internal affairs.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry official recalled Egypt's attitude towards releasing its civilian citizens held by Iran and which was based on treating and linking their problem with Iran's stand towards Iraq's initiatives and human international efforts for releasing prisoners of war and ending their sufferings.

He added that it was regrettable that Tehran leaders insist on neglecting such initiatives and efforts and exploit this human issue for purposes of political pressure.

He affirmed that claims by some newspapers of expected Egyptian contacts with Iran were mere fabrication far from reality.

Further Reportage on Leaders' Visit to Paris

'Abd-al-Majid News Conference

NC1607144889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, 16 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed the great importance of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' recent statement on behalf of the seven industrial nations during their summit conference in Paris rearding the Middle East situation. He disclosed that there is a move in this direction at the level of the EC Madrid summit and at the level of the seven major industrial nations, especially as these countries group the United States, Canada, and Japan.

In his news conference in Paris today, 'Abd-Al-Majid said this move is absolutely good.

He noted that the importance of the French foreign minister's statement on behalf of the industrial nations summit stems from the fact that this statement has identified the framework of an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the consent of the seven major industrial nations.

He said this statement also includes two important points: The first deals with the international conference for peace in the Middle East and the second concerns the elections in the occupied territories.

He pointed out that this is a very important point. As Dumas declared on behalf of the participants in the industrial summit, the Israeli Government's proposal for holding elections in the occupied territories cannot be considered a step toward mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO unless these elections are held in complete freedom and are part of a comprehensive settlement based on the principle of land for peace.

'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that contacts are continuing between Egypt and the PLO, noting the recent meeting in Cairo between President Husni Mubarak and head of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat. He said President Mubarak and 'Arafat had consulted prior to the president's recent visit to France.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that his recent meeting with 'Arafat's adviser Hani al-Hasan was part of the continuous coordination between Egypt and the PLO and its goal was to brief the PLO on recent wide-ranging Egyptian contacts in the French capital.

Commenting on Israel's stand on the proposal to hold elections in the occupied territories, especially the Likud bloc's stand, he asserted that Likud's additions are unacceptable. He said that Egypt's stand vis-a-vis these additions is clear because they complicate the peace process. Besides, he added, Egypt has questions about the Israeli stand and has not yet received a reply to them.

On the U.S. stand on this issue, 'Abd-Al-Majid said that from Washington's viewpoint the official Israeli position has not changed. He disclosed that a U.S. delegation will head for the region in a few days' time.

Commenting on the Lebanese crisis, 'Abd-al-Majid said in his news conference that Egypt is keen on Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and it supports the task of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon.

In this respect, he disclosed that little progress is being made in this area, noting that the 6-month time period given to the Arab committee will provide an opportunity to clarify things.

He pointed out that matters concerning the Lebanese crisis should be clarified in the next stage. He noted that the resolution passed by the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca was unanimous, agreed upon by all parties without reservations, adding that this Arab resolution represents an agreement of views.

Commenting on Egypt's relations with Syria, 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that these relations are free from tension and hoped they will continue with this spirit.

Regarding Iran, he said it has adhered to UN Resolution 598 and to peace talks with Iraq, as did Iraq.

He noted that if the Iranian leadership is eager to pursue this course, we welcome such a position said that Iranian leadership must prove its good intention and give up (?attempts) to dominate the region.

Regarding the Nonaligned Movement, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the movement calls for detente between the major powers and has actually succeeded in this field, as there is a conviction that detente helps solve many problems. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that all these matters are new in the international state of affairs, as everyone wishes to achieve peace, cooperation, and development.

It should be recalled that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left for Belgrade today where he will hold talks with his Yugoslav counterpart. The talks will touch on all issues related to the Nonaligned Movement and on the means to modernize it and give it impetus so that the movement can become more effective and positive during its summit slated for September in Belgrade.

To a question about the issue of Third World debts, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said this issue is extremely important, adding that these debts reflect negatively on the developing, less developing, and medium income [mutawassitat al-dakhl] countries. He noted that treatment of the debts problem is developing well, though this problem had not been discussed in the past.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the French president was the first to talk about this problem at the United Nations and later discussed it with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out in this regard that the situation in Latin America is serious as a result of the debts. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said this situation is of concern to the United States, adding that the plan drawn up by the U.S. Treasury secretary implies that there are good developed ideas to resolve this problem. He emphasized that the North-South dialogue is comprehensive and deals with other topics, not only the debt problem.

About Egyptian debts, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said there is a draft agreement being discussed between Egypt and the IMF, adding that contacts are under way to ratify this agreement. He described this as a very important step toward resolving the Egyptian debt. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid maintained that economic reform is in Egypt's interests but it should take place gradually and without pressures. The situation must be very well understood. He added: We are keen to carry out these reforms because they serve us and not the IMF.

Commenting on the situation in Sudan, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the situation there is positive, noting that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir visited Cairo a few hours before President Mubarak's visit to France.

To a question about the upcoming OAU summit conference, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said it represents an historic opportunity, adding that the African problems enjoy top priority in Egypt's policy.

Mubarak Meets Gandhi, Thatcher

NC1407162589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at his place of residence in Paris.

Following the meeting, President Mubarak stated that they had discussed developments in the Middle East situation, the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran war, the Lebanese problem, and economic issues.

The president said that Egypt's stand on the Lebanese issue has not changed and that Egypt hopes the Arab tripartite committee will find a solution to the Lebanese issue, so that the Lebanese state can exercise sovereignty. He said the outcome of the tripartite committee efforts will be studied at the next Arab summit.

Earlier today, the president met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. They discussed developments in the Middle East region and ongoing efforts to move the peace process forward, the economic problems facing the Third World, and bilateral relations.

The president later met with the president of Bangladesh.

Mubarak Meets Cyprus' Vasiliou

NC1407203189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak continued his meetings in Paris with world leaders who are taking part in the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the French revolution.

The president met with Cypriot President George Vasiliou. Following the meeting, Mubarak stated that Egypt and Cyprus are linked by excellent, strong, and traditional relations. He said he had invited the Cypriot president to visit Egypt in the second half of November to resume their discussion of the Cyprus issue and its developments. He added that he will meet with the Cypriot president in September at the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement. The president expressed the hope that a settlement of the Cyprus issue will reunite the country.

The Cypriot president stated that his meeting with President Mubarak was very useful. He said Egypt is the most important state in the Middle East and is linked with Cyprus by excellent relations, which are constantly being strengthened.

The Cypriot president added that he had briefed President Mubarak on developments in the Cyprus issue. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Congolese President Meet

NC1507124789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak met in Paris with Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

After the meeting, President Mubarak said that strong relations exist between Egypt and the Congo. He lauded the bilateral relations between the two countries. He described President Sassou-Nguesso as an African leader who is well respected, has his own views in the African field, and was OAU chairman 2 years ago.

Present Mubarak praised President Sassou-Nguesso's efforts in Africa, especially concerning Angola and Namibia. He said that during the meeting, African issues, international problems, and the relations between the two countries were discussed.

On the North-South dialogue called for by President Mubarak, the presidents of Venezuela and Senegal, and the Indian prime minister, President Mubarak said that this proposal envisions a dialogue between the North and the South to discuss a number of subjects related to environment, trade, economy, and the debt problem. He said that French President Mitterrand welcomed this dialogue and that this matter will be presented to the seven industrial states. He said that this dialogue will be beneficial to both sides and that the rich countries should become interested in the problems of the developing states because the North cannot live without the South. President Mubarak added the dialogue is to achieve the interests of both sides.

Mubarak on North-South Dialogue

NC1507141389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, 15 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has once again underlined the importance of holding a North-South dialogue as soon as possible.

Speaking to reporters here today, President Mubarak pointed out that the idea of conducting a dialogue between the North and the South is intended to bolster cooperation between both sides. He added that there are several topics related to the environment, trade, economy, and indebtedness that must be discussed and for which solutions need to be found.

Continuing his statement, President Mubarak said that French President Francois Mitterrand had welcomed the idea of North-South dialogue and promised to submit the proposal to the leaders of the seven major industrial states who are currently meeting in Paris. President Mubarak hoped in this respect that this dialogue will start without delay, because there are many problems involved that will take several meetings to discuss.

President Mubarak noted in this regard that no one is obligated, but it is the duty of the seven major states of the North to cooperate and hold a dialogue with the countries of the South over the issues of common interest, since the North cannot be detached from the South, as his excellency put it. President Mubarak said that we have already started the dialogue, before the North did. However, unless the North and the South conduct a dialogue, problems will accumulate and the countries of the North will find themselves compelled to hold this dialogue in the end.

Asked about his meeting today in Paris with Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, President Mubarak paid tribute to the role the Congolese president plays in Africa, describing him as a friend and one of the African leaders worthy of complete respect. He added that the Congolese president had once chaired the OAU and had exerted tremendous efforts through the organization, particularly with respect to the problems of Angola and Namibia. He said they had discussed several issues of interest to Africa, African unity, and developent in the continent and reviewed a number of international topics.

Asked whether he will accept the chairmanship of the OAU as unanimously demanded by the African countries, President Mubarak said: It is an assignment on the part of Africa, and no African leader could turn down such a request.

Mubarak Departs Paris 15 Jul

NC1507150689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Paris, 15 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation left Paris this afternoon after a 3-day visit to France during which he attended the celebrations marking the French Revolution's bicentennial. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Comments on Return

NC1507204989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the accompanying delegation returned to the homeland from Paris tonight at the end of a 3-day visit to France, during which he participated with other world leaders in France's celebrations of the bicentennial of the French Revolution. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the statement issued by the seven Western industrial countries and reports about the postponement of the international conference, President Mubarak said on arrival that the U.S. stand is one of understanding and it is comprehensive, and the United States is taking very good steps. He added: The United States might have reservations about the initiative or about the PLO and we have reservations too, but we should help activate the process.

President Mubarak added: We heard President Bush when he said: "We do not change our minds." He stressed we must support this stand and not rush things. He went on to say: Let us wait and see the result. Let us give a chance for those working so as not to disturb things.

The president also said: If the initiative is not carried out, we will go to the international conference. The Americans stressed this when they said that the international conference is an existing option and that "it is the best framework at the proper time." He noted that the Israeli initiative is the subject of a disagreement between the Likud and Labor Parties and that we will go to the international conference if it fails.

Mubarak Interviewed on ACC, Domestic Issues

JN1607064889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
12 Jul 89 pp 3, 5

["Second part" of interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by Ibrahim Nafi' in Cairo; date not given—first part of interview was published in the 13 July 1989 Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 11 through 14]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Nafi'] The prices of foodstuffs were doubled in the world market last year. Does this not prompt us to expedite projects on land reclamation even if this calls for getting additional funds?

[Mubarak] Do we have to borrow once again? We only borrow when it is necessary. The reclamation of 1 feddan costs 4,000 pounds—that is, the reclamation of 100,000 feddans will cost 400 million pounds. Where can I get the money from to reclaim 100,000 feddans?

[Nafi'] Through cooperation with the Arab countries.

[Mubarak] We always work with the Arab states and Arab funds. However, I say to those who—in the newspapers—call for planting the desert: You are welcome, take the desert. I say this to those who can dig a well for irrigation and agriculture, not those who stand beside the water and ask me for it free. Those who are capable must pay in order to continue building. Some people, particularly our writers, do not see the real picture. I hope they will fly with me on a plane to see what is happening along the desert highway to Alexandria. I returned from there the day before yesterday. I saw that Wadi al-Natrun has almost been linked to the arable land in the northern coast. In 5 or 6 years, we will see that the desert highway will link with the delta and become one area. What is happening is amazing. Yusuf Idris wrote about this one time. I hope he will go there to see what is happening.

[Nafi'] As broad areas of the desert are becoming green, in light of what the president has said about the continuous cooperation with the Arab funds, and in the wake of Egypt's return to the Arab financial institutions, can these Arab funds and financial institutions play a greater role in financing projects, particularly those that will attract investment—such as issues related to implementing the irrigation infrastructure projects to preserve the Nile waters?

[Mubarak] Yes, we are in fact preparing a series of projects to expedite the opening of canals and damming up of the water that flows into the sea to benefit from this water in land reclamation. The coming year will witness strong cooperation between Egypt and the Arab funds and financial institutions in implementing a number of giant projects. However, preparing projects and designs, inviting bids, selecting contractors, and implementing projects take a long time. You cannot just press a button to open a 200-km canal. Measures must be taken, water reservoirs built, and power stations established.

The fact is that we are in a race against time. We will hurry to implement these giant projects through cooperation with the Arab financial institutions. Before inviting these institutions, the government should complete the infrastructure to attract investment in land reclamation. This occupies a great deal of my thinking. The fact is that we receive from the Arab funds as much as we can. People from Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia took lands and planted them. We are trying to work with the private sector because the government alone cannot bear the costs of establishing the entire infrastructure. We in fact have an infrastructure, but we have to rationalize electricity consumption, water, roads, communications, and other matters. We have had achievements west of the delta thanks to our infrastructure there.

We have spoken a great deal about Mudiriyat al-Tahrir. Go and see. We have reclaimed twice what we have achieved in al-Tahrir. What we have achieved is incredible. Despite this, we hope that we will reclaim more land.

[Nafi'] Certainly, such regional Arab cooperation can benefit from Europe's experience in cooperation, clearly represented by the great developments witnessed in all European states. Hence, the following question arises. Was this the idea behind the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]?

[Mubarak] Yes. The real success of the ACC is being seen by the people. People will voice support for the ACC whenever they find that it has resulted in the implementation of projects that will benefit Egyptians, Yemenis, Jordanians, and Iraqis. There is a host of joint projects, preparation for which has almost been finished. It is unreasonable for us to expect the activation of labor and trade when physical links are severed. When we connect two countries through roads and the available means of transportation, we help the movement of labor and commodities. We felt the effect of this when we launched a ferry route between Egypt and Jordan. Besides, the United Nations has drawn up projects to improve and develop transportation networks linking Arab states, including some that might be implemented in the ACC member states. We will help implement these projects, such as building roads linking Cairo to Baghdad and to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia via a causeway or tunnel. This project has gained the blessings of His Majesty King Fahd. Besides, we also have a project to develop ferry transportation between Egypt and Jordan, to grant ACC tankers unrestricted movement in the ACC member states, and many others.

As for the second and main aspect—namely, that of linking power grids—we have actually begun this with Jordan. Europe is currently linked through one power grid, reducing the volume of investment required in electricity because the surplus in one country can be used in another without building new power stations, not to mention providing power reserves for use in an emergency. As for now, we have under discussion a project to be financed by the Arab Development Fund involving a power linkage between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey to pave the way for a power linkage with Europe. I have spoken with the brothers in Kuwait about linking the power grid of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the Egyptian and Iraqi power grids. Power linkage projects are very important, particularly as the ACC member states and Iraq can be power producers. They have exportable gases that can be used to generate electricity, which can be exported to countries that need it.

The third aspect concerns industrial cooperation. There are industrial capabilities available to manufacture basic raw materials. Besides, processing raw materials will provide production requirements for Egypt, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic. These raw materials can be exchanged for other commodities that might be supplied by the countries that do not have these raw materials. We hope that we will be able to create an upswing in providing these requirements. We are taking careful steps within the ACC, as hasty steps tend to be useless, lack content, and serve only propaganda purposes. We do not want to see a repetition of previous agreements on integration or fraternity. All of them were manifestations of great slogans. However, they were devoid of any significant content. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] Your Excellency is discussing industrial cooperation. The problem facing the industrial and economic institutions in Egypt is the shortage of foreign currency. Are we close to a solution to this problem, which emerged particularly since the drop in oil prices that resulted in a decline in hard currency resources?

[Mubarak] Oil was our first export commodity. Consequently, other export commodities should replace it. The solution is for Egypt's economy to turn into an export economy. And I mean exportation, not only to curb our imports. We hope that the sectors of agriculture, industry, war production, the Arab Industrialization Organization, and the giant transport companies will cooperate with the foreign trade sector in laying down a program to turn the Egyptian economy into a real export economy within a reasonable period of time. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] With regard to the issue of exportation and the importance of changing the Egyptian economy into an export economy to help achieve and expedite development objectives, it is important to develop the public sector to give it the ability to cooperate with the private sector in the export field. This is in addition to achieving a balance in prices inside Egypt. The president has dealt with this vital issue in the past and said that management in the public sector must be developed. As of this year, the public sector budget has been separated from the state budget. Do you expect big progress in developing the public sector?

[Mubarak] We are continuing the development process. This issue is at the top of our priorities in the coming stage. As we separated the budget this year, we will gradually give the public sector independence within the framework of general economic reform. This development is inevitable, and the controls are known. The public sector units should work as economic units. If we want to subsidize prices, economic management cannot prevent this. We will give subsidies from government resources. The government is now busy preparing detailed plans that will liberate the public sector. We will begin with a number of companies and make available all potentials of success. When the success becomes certain and we are able to deal with and learn from the problems that we might face, we will expedite the steps to generalize the experiment. I believe that everybody agrees on this—businessmen, managers, and workers. Increases in the workers' pay will be linked with increases in their companies' revenues. The revenues will only increase through a new type of management. We are keen to increase the workers' gains, and society's gains will also increase. If production and exports increase, local commodities and foreign currency will become available. By investing the foreign currency in more projects, we will have more job opportunities. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] What are the general bases, then, to liberate the public sector?

[Mubarak] I do not want to deal with them now, and I will leave them for later. Most important is that the public sector should not be affiliated with a ministry.

The public sector should make a profit for the government. It will set the price for commodities, and the government will review this price. If we find that the prices of strategic commodities are high, we will say no. The public sector will then produce new commodities, add a new production line, or renew existing production lines. The public sector will lay down its wage scale and incentive system and appoint the management it wants. [passage omitted]

Cairo Radio Comments on Israeli Settlers

NC1507105889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Amirah Fahmi news analysis on the Israeli settlements' war]

[Text] Political observers have stated that the Israeli authorities have begun to allow the Jewish settlers to use violence against the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The observers say that the settlers in the 140 settlements Israel has built in the occupied Arab territories have secret armed organizations similar to the Haganah organization that existed before Israel was established. The observers add that these settlers wish to take the law in their own hands and to carry out terrorist actions against the Palestinians. They also believe that Israel's borders are not determined by the internationally recognized geographical borderlines but by the land Israel controls.

The Israeli settlers, estimated at approximately 70,000 amid 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories, have formed what they call local committees to suppress and persecute the Palestinians in the occupied territories, benefiting from the Nazi experiments in this respect.

The Ari'el settlement in the occupied West Bank has stipulated that the Palestinian workers must wear a special badge on their chest under the pretext of security measures. This has provoked international wrath as this badge is reminiscent of the yellow star which Hitler compelled the Jews to wear during the Nazi rule of Germany.

On the official level, however, the Israeli authorities, within the framework of their policy to restrict the freedoms of the Arab inhabitants, have resorted to compelling 28,000 Palestinians in the Gaza sector, who are working in Israel, to obtain so-called entry cards. This is under the pretext of security requirements, in order to confront the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] which has been raging for over 19 months.

Mauritania

Information Minister Comments on Deportations

LD1307164489 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] There are no Mauritanian deportees and the only historical and recognized border is the median line of the river. Through its minister of information the Mauritanian Government thus refutes point by point what was said to us by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. Listen first to what Mohamed Lemine [Mauritanian minister of information] told journalist Carmen Bader concerning this deportation to Senegal of Mauritanian citizens of black African origin, which President Diouf yesterday described as a scandal. Here is the Mauritanian version of this polemic:

[Begin recording] [Lemine] In fact, the people who left Mauritania are only Senegalese. We confirm this, and it was the Senegalese president himself—this must be made clear—who insisted on taking in his compatriots resident in Mauritania and who benefited from all guarantees due to foreign nationals in our country. What the president deliberately concealed are the tens of thousands of Senegalese who were in fact deported to Mauritania, whose ancestors had never lived outside Senegal for centuries.

[Bader] So, Minister, there were no persons other than Senegalese expelled from your country?

[Lemine] All of the people expelled to Senegal on the request of the Senegalese president are Senegalese nationals.

I would also like to say that the president also raised the border problem. The Senegalese president must know that the border was inherited from colonialism, that is, the median line of the river is the only one which respects the sacrosanct principle of the immutability of borders inherited from colonialism. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Comments

LD1407092189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Minister of Information Mohamed Lemine made a statement this evening to Mauritanian radio and television in which he spoke about a number of issues concerning the Mauritanian-Senegalese conflict. He commented on the allegations made yesterday by the Senegalese president in his statement. Here is a full translation for this statement:

Minister of Information Mohamed Lemine spoke at first about the statement made by the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and confirmed that it fell within the context of the policy of running in front, a policy Senegal follows. He stressed that the statement [words indistinct] the events which recently took place. The minister explained world public opinion has begun to realize the truth about the ugly actions recently committed by the Senegalese. He pointed out that 1,000 Mauritanians were killed in Dakar alone. The minister of information said hundreds of thousands of Mauritanians were also subjected to various forms of violence and maltreatment in Senegal at a time when the Senegal organized a campaign to plunder the Mauritanian citizens' property without exception. He added that many observers ascertained these facts on the spot.

Then the minister spoke about the Senegalese claims concerning the deportation of some Mauritanians to Senegal and pointed out that only Senegalese left Mauritania. He confirmed anew that those people were holders of Senegalese nationality. The minister of information said Mauritania deported the Senegalese nationals at the Senegalese president's insistence. He added that those nationals were enjoying all the benefits and rights accorded by the law, which is internationally recognized. The minister added that the Senegalese president attempted deliberately to [words indistinct] tens of thousands of Senegalese who were recruited [words indistinct] from Senegal to Mauritania. Mohamed Lemine stressed that those people whose ancestors had Senegal as their homeland for many centuries were sent to Mauritania after Senegalese authorities seized their property. The minister of information pointed out that those people were Senegalese citizens [words indistinct] as testified by senior UN officials [words indistinct].

The minister of information also reviewed the border issue raised by the Senegalese president in his statement yesterday. He stressed that the Senegalese president must be be aware that the border inherited from colonialism, which divides the river, is the only border respected [words indistinct].

The minister of information added that had it not been for this principle, the (Rsoli) and (Loger) regions would have become Mauritanian regions, as they used to be in the past. The minister of information pointed out that Mauritania can historically and legally prove this. Answering a question about the extent of the objectivity of the comparison made by the Senegalese president between the Mauritanian property which was siezed and the Senegalese property, the minister said that comparing the property of the Mauritanian merchants who had lived in the Senegal for many centuries and who used to own billions of francs, with what the Senegalese who used to reside in Mauritania could have had, he said most of the Senegalese construction workers or other laborers is nothing but a falsification of the facts. [sentence as heard]

Relations Plummet to 'New Low'

AB1307175789 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 13 Jul 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Relations between Mauritania and Senegal have plummeted to a new low with both sides making claims on each other's territory. A major row between the two neighbors blew up in April after ethnic violence flared between Arab Mauritanians and black Senegalese, leaving hundreds dead. Diplomatic efforts seemed to have taken that out of the boil. But now Senegal's president has stirred things up by publicly claiming part of Mauritania as Senegalese territory. From the Senegal-Mauritania border, Mark Doyle reports:

[Begin Doyle recording] The new low in relations between the two countries began with an interview given by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to French Radio. Mr Diouf repeated Senegal's claim that the frontier between the two countries was not along the middle of the Senegal River where it is currently de facto drawn, but is considerably further north inside Mauritanian territory. Senegal bases this claim on the French colonial decree of 1933.

On its part, Mauritania has reacted angrily to President Diouf's claim. According to news agency reports, the Mauritanian information minister said Mr Diouf's claims were without legal foundation. The minister then turned the table and added that if Mauritania was forced to discuss the frontier, she had legal arguments proving that part of Senegal really belonged to Mauritania. Thus, the minister continued, the Senegalese town of Saint-Louis could be shown to be in Mauritania.

Elements of the armed forces of both countries have been present in the border region since the ethnic violence flared earlier this year. The military presence is relatively discreet, but armed patrols are regular. Both countries have stated in public recently that they do not want their political dispute to degenerate into military conflict. However, the Mauritanian Government has said that if Senegal starts the war she is ready to respond with force. [end recording]

More Expulsions to Senegal Reported

AB1607213489 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 16 Jul 89

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] There are reports that the authorities in Mauritania have continued to expel black Mauritanians to Senegal despite an agreement between the two countries that the practice should stop by the end of June. The expulsions started after ethnic violence between Arab Mauritanians and black Senegalese in which hundreds of people died. Reports from the border area last week said that about 150 black Mauritanians were expelled last Thursday, and the correspondent for the BBC in West Africa in a dispatch just in says that on Friday [14 July], he saw a dozen Mauritanians arriving in northern Senegal in less than an hour. He says the expulsion seemed to have been prompted by Mauritanian anger at a recent statement by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal that his government is persisting in its claim to parts of southern Mauritania.

Morocco

King Receives Al-Qadhdhafi's Personal Envoy
LD1207174689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received in the Royal Palace in Skhirat this afternoon, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, personal envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was accompanied by the resident secretary of the People's Bureau of the Jamahiriyah in Morocco, Muhammad Qasim Zuwway.

This audience was attended by Minister of State Moulay Alaoui, his majesty's adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, and Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri.

Envoy Comments, Departs
LD1307090789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, left Morocco last night after a visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II.

In a statement before leaving Morocco, Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed his happiness to visit Morocco, where he participated with the Moroccan people in the celebrations of the youth festivals, which this year commemorates the 60th anniversary of the birth of His Majesty King Hassan II.

He said that during his visit he conveyed to his majesty the greetings and congratulations of his brother the leader of the Libyan revolution, and that he conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In addition, Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed satisfaction with the vitality of the relations between the Libyan and Moroccan people. He stressed his country's commitment to consolidate these relations so that they will reach a strategic level which will serve the Arab Maghreb Union and fulfill the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of the Union.

In conclusion, Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi reiterated his congratulations to his majesty, wishing the Moroccan people continuous progress and prosperity.

Kingdom Assumes Maghreb Union Presidency
LD1307132889 Rabat MAP in English 1216 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Rabat, July 13, (MAP)—Morocco is assuming office of the presidency of the Higher Council of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) from this July 1st to next December, a communique of the union's Secretariat said Wednesday [12 July].

The communique added that Morocco's presidency takes place in the morrow of the exchanges of the ratification instruments of the UMA treaty. The exchange of the instruments of the UMA treaty was effected on June 30.

King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday received the members of the union's Secretariat General.

King Issues Pardon To Mark 'Id al-Adha
LD1307222889 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] To mark the [words indistinct] blessed 'Id al-Adha, the Ministry of Justice issued the following communique:

To mark the blessed 'Id al-Adha in this happy year 1989, His Majesty King Hassan II has issued orders to pardon 284 prisoners from the remainder of their prison or jail sentences; to reduce the prison or jail sentences of 104 prisoners; to pardon 9 prisoners of their jail sentences but not their fine; to pardon 8 prisoners of their jail sentences and fines; and to reduce the sentence of 1 prisoner from life imprisonment to limited imprisonment.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Seeks To Normalize Ties With USSR
NC1607102389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, has asserted that he intends to reestablish relations with the Soviet Union as they existed in 1970. In a statement published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, Al-Bashir said that he has asked the Soviet charge d'affaires in Khartoum that Moscow resume maintenance work and refurbishment of the factories it established in Sudan, as well as armament.

Lt Gen al-Bashir pointed out that he is about to declare a comprehensive economic revolution in Sudan, because the revolution he initiated has political, social, and educational aspects.

Regarding Arab groupings, Lt Gen al-Bashir expressed his hope that these groupings will be a step toward comprehensive Arab unity under one leadership. He noted that the Arab welcome of the salvation revolution was a sign that the situation has changed. He underlined that his revolution was a national Sudanese revolution and that no advance contacts were held with any Arab capital or embassy. Concluding his statement, Al-Bashir said that Sudan supports a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue, the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, and the achievement of a comprehensive and permanent peace between Iraq and Iran.

Further on Prospective Ties

LD1607105889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0850 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 16 (KUNA)—Sudanese new military leader General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has said that he asked a Soviet diplomat that relations between Khartoum and Moscow be restored to the 1970 level.

Al-Bashir was referring to relations between the Soviet Union and Sudan before the abortive communist military coup led by Hashem al-Atta following which bilateral ties deteriorated.

General al-Bashir who was speaking in an interview with AL-SIYASAH newspaper Sunday said that he asked the Soviet charge d'affaires in Khartoum to convey a request to his country to renew and maintain the Soviet projects in Sudan and to establish new ones.

Asked if he means industrial or military projects, Al-Bashir replied "all" adding that there are huge factories in Sudan built by the Soviet Union and at the same time "we have Soviet-made weapons that we want them to maintain and we hope of more military cooperation in the field of armament and other sectors."

In an answer to a question, Al-Bashir did not rule out the possibility that good relations with the Soviet Union would reflect on improving ties between Sudan and neighboring Ethiopia.

He emphasized, however that an agreement between Ethiopia and Sudan would not solve the crisis of southern Sudan, adding that "the solution (for the crisis in the south) [word indistinct] seeking is one guaranteed to meet with the satisfaction of the people."

Al-Bashir blamed the colonial rule in Sudan in the past of being directly responsible for the southern problem saying that before this rule there was only one Sudan and no north or south.

Speaking of his priorities, Al-Bashir said that development of the Armed Forces and police is one of the prime concerns of the new government.

In an answer to a question on the calls for unity between Sudan and both Libya and Egypt he replied that "this target will be temporarily postponed until the Constitution is well established in united Sudan."

In an answer to another question, Al-Bashir said it is a matter of principle not to let any armed opposition operate from within the country against any country in the neighborhood.

He added that concentrated efforts are under way to reconcile the government with the opposition in Chad and then to improve relations between Chad and Libya.

He disclosed that the Chadian opposition elements in Sudan have been partly disarmed.

He also disclosed that he is going to visit Libya to meet with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and that Al-Qadhdhafi will also visit Khartoum, adding that "we will call on all Arab brothers and will also invite them to visit Sudan."

Further on Denial of Separation of South

JN1507171889 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Jul 89 p 1

[Telephone dispatch from Uthman Sayyid Ahmad in Khartoum]

[Text] Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] member and official spokesman of the council, has denied that Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese RCC, has proposed the secession of southern Sudan from the north as an option to fundamentally resolve the southern problem.

In an exclusive statement to AL-YAWM, he said a report published in the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ has no basis in truth, noting that comprehensive national unity and sparing the country the slippery road of fragmenting the nation are planks of the post-30 June revolution leadership. The RCC visualizes a peaceful solution to the problem of the south. Col Sulayman added: Neither the council's chairman nor any member of the RCC ever said anything about an intention to allow the secession of the south from the north. He indicated that contacts and consultations with brothers in the south are under way with a view to working out a peaceful solution. He noted that there are three southerners on the RCC and that the new cabinet lineup also includes ministers from the south. This picture, he said, demonstrates that there is not any intention to bring about a spearation between northern and southern Sudan.

He said the RCC delegation that visited Addis Ababa 2 days ago handed a letter from Lt Gen al-Bashir to the Ethiopian president but did not give one to Garang as reported by some news agencies and papers yesterday. There are contacts, however, between the Sudanese Government and the Garang movement to work out guidelines for negotiations and consultations.

The RCC official spokesman reiterated to AL-YAWM that the RCC will pursue its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem of southern Sudan. It will also sound out the brothers in the south on a drastic solution other than secession. We have therefore visited them in their positions in the south, particularly in Juba and Malakal. Furthermore, delegations of the RCC met with them to develop a comprehensive visualization of a settlement.

Asked about the implication of Lt Gen al-Bashir's brief visit to Egypt the day before yesterday, the spokesman said that as an Arab country, Sudan is supposed to keep in touch with its sisterly Arab states. We hope the visit to one Arab country will not be interpreted as favoring it over the other Arab countries. We must begin with one Arab country; it is not possible to make simultaneous visits to all Arab countries .

Sudan's relations with Egypt are similar to its relations with Saudi Arabia and the other Arab states. Led by Lt Gen al-Bashir, the new leadership will pursue close ties with all the Arab countries, said Sulayman. Lt Gen al-Bashir would have liked to visit Saudi Arabia were it not for the preoccupation of the custodian of the two holy mosques and the entire Saudi Government with the hajj season. Following 'Id al-Adha, Lt Gen al-Bashir will visit Saudi Arabia, the spokesman added.

On Sudan's reported intention to conclude a security agreement with Egypt in the coming few days, the official spokesman said that for the moment there is no plan for concluding such a pact. The possibility, however, exists for special agreements being signed between Sudan and sisterly Arab countries, particularly with Egypt and other neighboring states.

Strong Support for Saudi Arabia Voiced
EA1507081889 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Mecca, 14 July—Sudan has confirmed its support to Saudi Arabia against any sabotage aimed at undermining the stability and safety of Saudi people. Member of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council, NSRC, Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, told the Saudi daily "AL-NADWA" that Sudan opposes any pressure or provocation directed against the Kingdom. Sudan strongly supports Saudi Arabia and its firm stand regarding the desecration of the holy Mecca, he told the daily.

Corruption Trial To Begin in 'Next 2 Days'
EA1507194089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, has announced that the trial of those accused of corruption and financial and administrative violations will begin within the next 2 days. He said whoever was found innocent would be released. He said the government had received complaints from various people about financial and administrative violations and others regarding [word indistinct].

Further on Trial
NC1507145089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and the government's official spokesman, has stated that the investigating committee and courts that had been set up will begin in the next 2 days the trial of those accused of committing acts of corruption in the country. He said anyone not found guilty by the investigations will be released.

Tunisia

Arab League's Chedli Klibi Deplores Mecca Blasts
LD1207110889 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 July (APS)—The Secretary General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi expressed "deep regrets and anxiety" of all Muslims after the explosion yesterday of a bomb in the holy place of Mecca at the time when Muslims were gathered on the occasion of Hajj (pilgrimage).

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Morocco of 'Blackmail'
LD1507111889 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] In Western Sahara on the eve of the OAU summit, the Polisario Front accuses Morocco of blackmail and denounces the Moroccan Government's attempts to seek to condition its reintegration into the organization with the freezing of Saharan Democratic Arab Republic activities in the OAU. Journalist Nacera Cherif reports:

[Begin Cherif recording] The Polisario representative in Paris has made a clarification following the erroneous interpretation of certain news agencies of the statements made Bashir Moustapha al-Sayyid on the conditions of the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara. The organization of a free and fair referendum of self-determination in Western Sahara, Al-Sayyid said, cannot take place in any way without the prior removal of obstacles: withdrawal of Moroccan troops and administration as well as the Moroccan settlers, the abolition of current emergency laws in force, and a joint decision on practical ways of establishing a cease-fire between the two belligerents. [end recording]

PDRY

Foreign Minister Meets Cuba's Mazola 11 July

EA1207221089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Excerpt] At noon today, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, held a meeting at his office with Comrade Giraldo Mazola, the Cuban vice foreign minister. They discussed relations between Democratic Yemen and Cuba and ways of developing and strengthening them. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Another Explosion in Mecca; No Casualties

LD1707004389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0020 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Mecca, 16 Jul [date as received] (SPA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry told SPA that at 0130 after midnight on Monday 17th July 1989, a limited explosion occurred in holy Mecca on a piece of uninhabited land on Qubays mountain near the holy mosque.

The source said that the explosion caused no human injuries or material losses. The security authorities immediately adopted the necessary measures to investigate the incident.

King Fahd, Crown Prince Issue Address to Pilgrims

LD1407131989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Jul 89

["Address Issued by King Fahd and Crown Prince 'Abdallah to Pilgrims"—SPA headline]

[Excerpts] Mina, 14 July—Thanks be to God who guided us to Islam, who legislated for us the best of religions, who granted us peace and security. We thank Him and we obey Him. God Almighty said: "God has promised to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He surely will grant them inheritance of power in the land, as he granted it to their ancestors; that He will establish the authority of their religion—the one which He has chosen for them; and that He will change their state, after the fear in which they lived, to one of security and peace: They will worship me alone and not associate anything with me. If any do reject faith after this, they are rebellious and wicked." [passage omitted]

Islam came to the whole of mankind to save it from straying from the right path. The greatest virtues of Islam have been and still are its foundation of a system based on the principle that all peoples belong to one nation, irrespective of their race, color, language, civilization, history, or region. [passage omitted]

Islam brought a remedy for all the turmoil and chaos that existed during the previous civilizations.

Proceeding from this, Islam has encircled society with a strong fence that does not allow chaos to infiltrate this society. If such chaos were to infiltrate society at the hand of anyone, there are punishments likely to deter those who spread chaos. Therefore, Islam has guaranteed the existence of a clean and pure society, far from those who spread anarchy on earth.

Through this strong and firm system, Islam embarked on establishing an ideal society whose means are defined, whose goals are clear, in which there is no room for ambiguity; there is a limit for every basis, and anyone who thinks about going beyond this limit would be committing an offence. [passage omitted]

It is good news to witness this year some Islamic and international detentes, not only in the political arena but also in other areas related to international relations.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is truly optimistic about the results in the Islamic and international arenas because optimism is a characteristic of the Muslim. Because we belong to this part of the world, we are pleased for its pleasures and unhappy for its unhappiness. Consequently, we have called and we still call for international cooperation, but not at the expense of others or in the interests of one side at the expense of another group or organization.

We have appealed for and we still appeal for a peace based on right and justice. Our appeal was not a mere slogan, but a true and sincere appeal that is not something new, but a fact that forms one of the foundations of Saudi foreign policy since the late King 'Abd-al-Aziz Ibn-'Abd al-Rahman al-Faysal al-Sa'ud, may he rest in peace, established this state. There is abundant evidence in ancient and modern history on this fact.

We have called for and still call for defending Islam, and sparing the world the dangers of bloody wars that exhaust the potentials of nations and peoples, and make them a target for waste, subjecting them to social, economic, political, and cultural backwardness. Because Islam is a divine message, it is a social doctrine that protects the dignity of mankind and safeguards its entity and civilization.

Our policy, which has been reiterated at numerous gatherings, refutes war, encourages peace, and hates it that one single drop of blood should be shed unjustly. This is the Islamic policy that does not accept bargaining, and which refuses capitulation but to God Almighty alone. [passage omitted]

We have campaigned for and still campaign for a just economic system, in which the needs and capabilities of developing countries are taken into consideration; they should not be burdened with debts, they should not be required to supply what is beyond their means, and they should not be made victims of their desire to develop their societies. These matters have become crucial particularly in light of the current East-West and North-South dialogues, and in light of the desired international complementarity.

We have appealed and we still appeal for a ban on the use of nuclear and chemical weapons. We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are committed to this principle. We signed a treaty that confirms the sincerity of our policy, and submitted it to the appropriate quarters. We would not have taken such a step had it not been for our full conviction of the need to spare the international community the serious consequences arising from the use of these weapons, for which we fail to find any justification in a world where matters should be solved through dialogue and understanding; in addition, the use of such arms does not stem from human virtues, let alone from true Islamic virtues.

This year has witnessed some progress toward solving some problems; it has also witnessed positive developments. In the Islamic world, Islamic solidarity has become part of the policy of each Muslim country, which makes the whole Islamic world one international bloc, that is firmly coherent and solid from top to bottom.

Needless to say, since its inception the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has called and still calls for abiding by God's religion, for solidarity among Muslims. It is still calling for one Islamic effort that unites the word and stance; its aim is but to serve God and its true religion.

This policy began during the era of the founder King 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God rest his soul, who in 1926 in Mecca held the first Islamic conference in the modern history of Islam. He declared that this was a call for a show of solidarity among Muslims to be a line of return for the Islamic nation.

During the time of the late King Sa'ud Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Islamic World League was established, and during the reign of the late King Faysal Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz the call was renewed on the basis of a complete understanding that matches the nature of Islam as a faith and way of life in this world and the world to come. The late King Faysal stressed the need to hold an Islamic summit conference embracing all the kings and heads of state of all Islamic nations as a platform aimed at polarizing the principle of Islamic solidarity as a basic reality and a fact of the time. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian issue has at last witnessed the birth of the independent Palestinian state which received the recognition of most states of the world. The Palestinian uprising, on the other hand, has not ceased to prove to world public opinion its ability to resist the inhuman actions of the Israeli enemy and his dangerous practices against the rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian issue is in need of a unified and committed Arab, Islamic, and international stand alongside those heroic mujahidin whose brave and courageous uprising still sounds the alarm, while the world is becoming more aware of the harsh misdeeds of Israeli occupation on the one hand and the rejection by the Palestinians of the operations of dismemberment, the withdrawal of identity, and the melting down of the Palestinian personality on the other. [passage omitted]

While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia once again supports the efforts for convening an international peace conference with the participation of permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, it draws attention to the Arab peace plan which was released at the Arab summit conference in Fes, Morocco in 1982.

It believes that Israeli intransigence may lead to dreadful results in the area, while the Palestinian people are subjected to acts of extermination, persecution, and torture.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom also appeals to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to continue their efforts to arrive at a just and fair stand that ensures peace, tranquillity, and security, not only in the region but throughout the entire world community.

The Lebanese crisis has entered a new phase to overcome all the stages of disunity, division, and hopelessness. [passage omitted]

We never wavered from taking, via various channels and legitimate ways and means, the necessary action to save Lebanon from the state it is in. This is because such action is dictated by the call of Arab and Islamic brotherhood so that Lebanon can become what Lebanon used to be: a secure and independent country.

Brothers; pilgrims to the holy house of God: What remains is the Iranian war which has ended but still disturbs the atmosphere of relations between two Muslim and neighbourly countries, despite the relative relaxation and importance of the cease-fire. It is a stage which we hope will be followed by further steps that take into consideration the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 in its entirety, through which comprehensive peace will be achieved, confidence will be regained, and neighbor will feel safe with his neighbor. The two sides can then free themselves to build and produce, and the two Iraqi and Iranian peoples will become an example of fraternity and good neighborliness.

While we are satisfied with the end of fighting and with the start of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and fair settlement of this conflict, we sincerely hope that the two sides will speed up the transition from the state of a cease-fire to the state of peace and the entrenchment of security and stability.

While lauding the efforts on the international and regional levels to invigorate and intensify the direct talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general on the basis of implementing Security Council Resolution 598, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that it is necessary to guarantee the rights of Iraq and its sovereignty over its territory and territorial waters, and that no interference in its domestic affairs should take place ensuring the security of the Arabian Gulf, and that freedom of navigation in its international waters and the Strait of Hormuz be open to all ships without hindrance.

Some Muslim minorities live outside our countries, and they are suffering from individuals, groups, and regimes who are trying to strip them of their Islamic identity and prevent them from exercising the simplest of human rights, trying to eradicate their Islamic characteristics and constituents.

Undoubtedly, this is a serious matter that causes serious damage to these Islamic minorities, a matter that calls for one's attention. It is aimed at suppression and intimidation, contrary to the human rights called for by international law, before and after those adopted by Islam as part of its pure teachings.

Therefore, the Islamic nation is invited today to express solidarity with the support for these Muslim minorities to ward off this lurking danger. We are convinced that some regimes have been able to understand the situation of these minorities, and granted them some of their rights. We hope that the rest of the regimes will follow the path of regimes that understand that Islam's social structure calls for tolerance, brotherhood, and not for blind fanaticism.

Honorable brothers, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that God has honored with serving the two holy mosques, and the Kingdom's people that God blessed with serving the pilgrims, stress to you once again that they will do their utmost to remain loyal to this historic responsibility, and continue to honor this trust.

Despite all our efforts, we might not achieve perfection, because perfection is God's characteristic. Hence, we call on all Muslim countries to further cooperate with us, to continue to raise the awareness of their pilgrims, and to be able to perform the pilgrimage.

We are pleased to have you with us every year here in holy Mecca, al-Madinah, 'Arafat, Muzdalifah and Mina. We have dedicated ourselves to this responsibility, and we beseech God's help to achieve success.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a peace-loving country. It desires stability, and does its utmost for the prevalence of goodness. We aspire to have such understanding prevail in the world.

We have been, are, and will be messengers of love and peace. However, we will not tolerate anyone's exceeding their limits and exploiting our silence, or harming our land and sacred shrines.

Our country is open to everyone; it gives us great pleasure to meet our brothers from all Islamic countries during this blessed time for the sake of noble aims and divine goals, far away from the filth of life, the trivialities of things, the crises of the world, and political concerns. There is no room for aggression or slogans in these sacred shrines.

Moreover, our stances and policies stem from God's eternal shari'a that is above race and sectarianism, refutes fanaticism, condemns disunity, and calls for brotherhood and love. We have no ambitions or aspiration towards anyone. What we do is stipulated by Islam, the common destiny, and called for by Arab and Islamic brotherhood.

Regarding the international arena, we aspire to entrenching the principles of international cooperation and achieving international stability. We are doing our best to bolster the positive regional and international efforts. Also, we believe that the world is going through a phase of revival as a result of the stability of the international economy.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thank God, has provided external aid because it believes in the principle of achieving equal opportunities to live in social and political security. It is also aware of the importance of prosperity as a means to establish the principles of cooperation, justice, and stability. [passage omitted]

Paper Condemns Sabotage Against Holy Places

JN1607101189 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
13 Jul 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Kingdom's Achievements for All Muslims"]

[Text] The Islamic countries continue to denounce the crime committed near the holy mosque that terrorized the crowds of believers who came from all over the world to perform the hajj and that disrupted the rituals of this great occasion.

This rancorous abuse clearly shows the bankruptcy and contempt of those behind it. It also demonstrates the deliberate intention to commit a crime and instigate those tampering with religion and capitalizing on slogans and those harboring grudges as a result of their failure in all fields and on all fronts.

The Islamic countries see and appreciate all the tremendous efforts being exerted by the Kingdom to serve the pilgrims. Thus, their attitude toward this crime is one of absolute condemnation and total denunciation of those responsible for provoking and directing it.

It is wrong to assume that such crimes can undermine confidence in the security measures that have been taken by the Kingdom to serve the worshippers or affect the Kingdom's continuous efforts to ensure the safety of the holy places. Such an assumption lives only in the minds of those who are unable to distinguish between facts and lies and who are unable to understand clearly the course of events because they have been blinded by the illusions and lies that they have reiterated and believed. Such illusions and lies made these people fail to grasp several facts, which condemn them and link them with the nation's enemies who are trying to split its ranks.

If sabotage is the language understood by the corrupt on earth, firmness and the ability to control matters and anomalous manifestations will be the best reply to the corrupt on earth. God be praised, the Kingdom's security organs are capable of nipping sedition in the bud and eliminating any abuse of Islam and its holy places or against Muslims and their safety.

The language of sabotage is a foul one that only those harboring grudges use and therefore should be dealt with firmly. Islam and its holy places, the Muslims and their safety are not debateable issues. The Kingdom, which God honored by placing the holy places on its territory and charging its leaders with serving the two holy mosques, cannot be lenient with the corrupt on earth. It will strike with an iron fist anyone who contemplates tampering with the security, safety, and achievements of this dear homeland. These achievements belong to all Muslims throughout the globe so the Muslims' glorious days and blessed feasts will not be abused by the corrupt on earth.

AL-YAWM: Iran Behind Mecca Explosions

JN1507184589 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 Jul 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Crimes of Those Who Do Mischief on Earth"]

[Text] Those who do mischief on earth accept nothing other than terrorizing innocent people and planting sedition among the believers. Publicly and before the entire Muslim world, they instigate their agents to commit crimes gainst God's guests. However, God has defeated them and disgraced their actions; their plans and instigations were met with only solid failure and defeat.

If those who do mischief on earth think that through their desperate attempts they can harm this dear Kingdom and great entity and shake the confidence that the Muslims placed on the leaders of this country, then they provide the best proof on their narrow vision, false calculations, and wrong thinking. The Kingdom confronts such chatter with extreme firmness and toughness, and this is part of its comprehensive plan to provide the pilgrims with all means of comfort.

The Muslims have denounced these criminal acts behind which stand the Tehran rulers. These rulers drive their agents to commit these crimes as if the souls of Muslims were worthless and their security had no value whatsoever. This is absolute disdain for the teachings of the religion, which urges peace and security; it is disdain for the sanctity of the Islamic holy places and the sacred time during which Hajj is performed.

Shaky belief, flaccid creed, and bizarre thinking have driven Tehran rulers to commit many foolish acts that exposed their malicious intentions and placed them at the same level as enemies who try to disintegrate the Muslim nation, create sedition among its peoples, depart from its consensus, and harm its holy places.

The Islamic world realizes that those who do mischief on earth will reap nothing but disgrace that exposes their mischief before the world after their defeats in many fields and on many fronts. Their weapons are lies, slander, terrorism, and instigation of sabotage. However, these weapons cannot stand in front of right, security, and peace.

No matter how far those who do mischief on earth go in their crimes, these crimes are doomed to failure. Islam will remain strong by its very nature, the beliefs of its followers, and the strong faith of its leaders.

Iraqi Official Visits Hajj Mission

JN1407055189 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, has visited the headquarters of the Iraqi High Hajj Mission during the performance of the hajj rites in Mina. He was received by 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs and head of the High Hajj Mission, and members of the mission. The minister gave a detailed account on the nature of services provided to the Iraqi pilgrims, especially medical services, religious guidance, and supervision of accomodation in all hajj sites.

At the end of the visit, Ibrahim reassured himself of the safety and comfort of the Iraqi pilgrims and the services provided by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs. He praised the efforts being exerted in the service of the pilgrims.

United Arab Emirates

Sudanese Command Council Official Arrives

JN1607161889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jul (WAKH)—Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a visit of several days to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of his tour of a number of countries in the region. He was received at the airport by UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad al-Nuhayyan, a number of ministers, senior civilian and military personnel, and the Sudanese ambassador to the UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Leaves for Iraq 16 Jul

JN1607184389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, left for Baghdad this morning at the head of our country's delegation to take part in fraternal Iraq's celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the 17 July Revolution.

Embassy States Iranian Agents Killed Qasemlu

JN1607150789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Vienna, 16 Jul (INA)—A statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy here today describes the assassination of Dr 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu as a nasty operation carried out by Iranian intelligence agents.

The embassy said that Iranian intelligence concocted a plot against Dr Qasemlu, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, with the purpose of liquidating him.

In a statement distributed to journalists today, the Iraqi Embassy stressed its confidence that the Austrian authorities will unveil the perpetrators and the side that planned the operation.

The embassy also expressed its regret about involving Iraq's name in the assassination operation, stressing that Dr Qasemlu was a friend to Iraq and remained so until the last day of his life. It added that Iraq does not exercise such criminal actions and that all evidence indicates that Iranian intelligence agents killed Dr Qasemlu and his comrades.

Delegations Arrive for Anniversary Celebrations

JN1607115089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Delegations from friendly countries have continued to arrive in Baghdad to take part in Iraq's celebrations marking the anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

(Monzin Kita), Political Bureau member of the Mali People's Democratic Union; Said Kafe, Comoran foreign affairs minister; Saliou Coumbassa, Guinean national education minister; Ali Nisar, Pakistani minister of state for industries [title as heard]; (Joseph Odella), a Mexican senator; (Alberto Jellicose), ambassador at the Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry; and a French delegation led by (Goldifice), chairman of the French Friendship Group, arrived in Baghdad last night.

Iafai Camara, first vice president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, also arrived in Baghdad last night.

The delegations were welcomed upon arrival by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Higher Education and Scientific Research Minister Mundhir Ibrahim, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the accredited ambassadors of these states in Baghdad.

The delegation of the Cuban Communist Party led by Comrade Jorge Risquet, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chief of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the party, also arrived in Baghdad last night to participate in the celebrations marking the 17-30 July revolution anniversary.

In a statement to INA, Comrade Jorge Risquet said: I am very pleased to be here in Iraq to participate in its national celebrations. I will seize this opportunity to hold talks and meetings with officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to bolster ties, exchange expertise and experiences between the two parties, and exchange views on international problems.

The Cuban official was received by Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the official in charge of the External Relations Bureau at the Regional Command; and the director of the External Relations Bureau at the Regional Command.

Soviet Delegation Arrives

JN1407155689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet Military Industry Committee, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation to participate in Iraq's celebrations on the 21st anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

In a statement to INA, Belousov said that the USSR's participation in the July revolution celebrations is evidence of the developing ties of mutual confidence and strong relations between the USSR and Iraq.

He noted that, during the visit, he will hold meetings with Iraqi officials to strengthen and develop cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation consists of Yuriy Kozhin, deputy minister of foreign trade, and Loponid Filimonov, representative of the Ministry of Petroleum and Gas Industry in the USSR [name, title as received]. The delegation was received by Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

GDR, Hungarian Delegations Arrive

JN1607120689 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 16, INA—Delegations of a number of Arab and friendly countries arrived here today to attend Iraq's festivities on the 21st anniversary of July 17 Revolution.

Dr. Hans-Joachim Heusinger deputy premier and minister of justice in Democratic Germany arrived in Baghdad early today, leading his country's delegations.

In a statement to INA the German minister said, "Our participation in celebrations of friendly Iraq on its national day comes in expression of strength and development of relations between our countries, and also a good opportunity to meet with the Iraqi officials to discuss consolidation of bilateral relations in all fields."

Delegation of the People's Republic of Hungary, led by Mr. Lazlo Marothy, the minister for environment and water management, also arrived in Baghdad today to attend Iraq's celebrations on the 21st anniversary of July 17 revolution.

The two delegations were welcomed at the airport by Mr. Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif, the minister of finance and the two countries ambassadors to Iraq and Hungary.

INA Cites Bush Cable to Saddam on Anniversary

JN1507113689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—U.S. President George Bush has expressed hope that American-Iraqi relations will develop to consolidate the easing of tension in the region. In a cable President Saddam Husayn received here today on the occasion of the 17 July 1968 revolution, the U.S. President said: I am looking forward to working with you toward peace and stability in the region and in the world.

President Bush added: At this time last year, Iraq was in a state of war, and although there is still work to be done to ensure total peace, I am glad to say that the guns remain silent.

Interior Minister Returns From Argentina

JN1607103489 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 16, INA—Iraq's Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab returned here last night concluding a several-day visit to Argentina.

The interior minister represented President Saddam Husayn in induction ceremonies of Mr. Carlos Menem the new president of Argentina that were held in Buenos Aires last Saturday.

AL-THAWRAH on Missiles, Syrian Reaction

JN1607164189 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jul 89 p 2

[Article by Hanna Isbir: "A Dangerous Game"]

[Text] The Syrian regime's trumpets are making a hue and cry these days. What is the matter? The Damascus regime talks about weapons possessed by the Lebanese Army and expresses fear of missiles that reached the Lebanese regular army. Under the cover of the media clamor of the Syrian propaganda instruments, voices of the Syrian regime's agents and criminal tools of militia leaders were raised asking Syria's rulers to supply them with weapons similar to those possessed by the Lebanese regular army. Why? According to one of them, to achieve (parity) between these militias and the Lebanese regular forces. And this is the main point.

What the Damascus rulers want from raising the issue of missiles possessed by the Lebanese Army is to push the militias loyal to it to demand similar weapons. So, if these weapons were to be used under any circumstances, their use would mark the beginning of the end for Lebanon—country, people, and sovereignty.

By supplying their henchmen with weapons of mass destruction, the Damascus rulers are seeking to make the war in Lebanon so dangerous that things would end up with Lebanon not being able to face the Syrian expansion and hegemony; then, the division of Lebanon would become a reality according to the Zionist, Syrian, and Iranian desires. This means that the game played by the Syrian regime in this regard is very dangerous, because it actually wants to arm its henchmen with these destructive weapons, and also because it wants these weapons to end the Lebanese ordeal the way the enemies of that country want it to end.

Anyhow, a question arises concerning the uproar stirred by the Damascus rulers over the Lebanese Army. Has the Lebanese Government ever objected to the type of weapons possessed by the Syrian Army? Has the Lebanese legitimacy ever considered Arab armies to constitute a threat to it, as the Syrian regime is doing nowadays?

The Syrian regime says that the Lebanese Army's missiles constitute a threat against it. If there is any side in the Lebanese crisis that should worry over his country, it is the Lebanese side. First, because the Syrian Army occupies Lebanon, and not the opposite. Second, because the Lebanese side was the side that suffered greatly from the weapons of the Syrian regime, which has done against Lebanon what no one else have ever done—not even the Zionists. In addition to that, we have never heard the Syrian regime expressing fear of the Zionists' weapons or guns, which are stationed only 25 km from the palace of the Damascus ruler himself. So, why this uproar, which is fabricated by the Damascus rulers against Lebanon?

And, why this intervention in Lebanese domestic affairs? Is Lebanon not an Arab country? Is it not the right of every Arab army, or any army in the world, to possess whatever weapons that will enable it to defend its country's independence and sovereignty? Is the Lebanese Army not an Arab army that has the right to possess whatever weapons that will enable it to liberate its territory, preserve its independence, and kick the Zionist and Iranian invaders from its homeland?

The Damascus regime is dealing with Lebanon—territory and people—with the logic the strong will employ against the weak. By so doing, it forgets that if the logic of size were employed in dealings among Arab states, the Damascus ruler—with the demagogy known about him—would today be on the list of those who make cries about intervening in their domestic affairs.

Has the Damascus ruler ever asked himself—particularly after he ruined the Syrian Army and diverted it from its main mission—where he could have placed his regime and the interests of Syria as a whole if noble pan-Arab values and noble Arab norms did not govern Arab countries with bigger size? Has the Syrian regime ever asked itself while invading Lebanon what would happen if, for example, Iraq took the necessary guarantees to ensure that the 1975 tragedy, in which crops were destroyed and cattle died due to the Syrian regime's blocking of the Euphrates waters, was not repeated? Is this not a right of Iraq and one of the requirements to defend its security and the interests of its people? However, the noble pan-Arab values, ethics, and principles that characterize Iraq and its outstanding historical leadership differ from those with which the Damascus rulers deal with Lebanon. They are quite different.

What the Damascus ruler must realize—today before tomorrow—is that he must withdraw with his troops from Lebanon. He must stop intervening in the affairs of that afflicted country. Or else, sooner or later, he will be compelled to withdraw while licking his wounds in Syria, whether he likes it or not.

Arens, Palestinians Hold Series of Meetings

TA1607084989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Jul 89 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens last week held a series of more than 10 meetings with prominent political figures from the territories.

The meetings, approved by and coordinated with the prime minister, were meant to examine the extent to which the residents of the territories would be willing to accept the government's peace initiative and launch negotiations with the Israeli authorities on the elections in the territories.

It was learned that the foreign minister found his Palestinian interlocutors attentive, but not in agreement with his opinions and assessments.

Last week Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a single meeting with Palestinian figures.

The notables who met Shamir and Arens are residents of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, none of them is from East Jerusalem. They requested that their names not be published for fear that reporting the fact of their meetings with the Israeli leaders might endanger their lives.

The meetings were held with each of the notables separately, in "neutral" locations such as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem hotels.

Dani Rave, the foreign minister's media adviser who confirmed the fact that the meetings were held to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, said: "These meetings should be seen as an attempt to promote the cabinet stand."

In a reply to the question whether these meetings were not contradictory to the Likud Central Committee resolution that no negotiations should be held "before the intifadah [uprising] is quelled," Rave said: "It is true that the elections cannot be held in a violent atmosphere, but it is imperative that we hold talks with elements in the area on entering the path of negotiations."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry told our correspondent that meetings with the notables will continue this week as well.

Arens' Comments Cited

TA1707105389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says Palestinians he has been meeting say they are afraid to participate in [illegible] because of PLO threats. Arens was speak-

[Begin recording] [Essing] Foreign Minister Arens says not a day goes by without the PLO killing and attacking Palestinians who do not toe the PLO line 100 percent. This was the message he received from the Palestinians.

[Arens] Some of the people that I have talked with have told me: As things are right now, anybody that would put forth his candidacy, if he did not have the endorsement of the PLO, he would probably be dead within 24 hours. And so they say: Can you have free elections under such circumstances?

[Essing] And so, Arens says, the first challenge for Israel and the Western world is to enable the Palestinians to participate in elections without PLO death threats. The first step is for Western leaders to end all contacts with the PLO.

Arens welcomes Secretary of State Baker's statement that he believes Israel still stands behind the original peace initiative. Does Arens believe that Baker's comments will now influence the Labor Party and Israel?

[Arens] Well, it is difficult for me to second-guess the Labor Party and just exactly what the motives of the leadership are. They know—certainly as well as Mr Baker, and maybe even more so—that nothing has changed, that the peace initiative stands as it was adopted by the government. [end recording]

'Satisfaction' With Baker Remarks Noted

TA1707101489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The Prime Minister's Bureau has expressed satisfaction with Secretary of State James Baker's remarks on the peace initiative. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen was told that this is proof that the administration accepts Mr Shamir's explanations that Israel adheres to the political initiative. The bureau expressed the hope that the Labor Party, too, will understand that no change has been made to the peace initiative.

Jerusalem 'Split' on Meaning

TA1707054889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] One more pretext to disband the government at this time was invalidated last night with Secretary of State James Baker's remark that the United States is satisfied that the Israeli Government's political initiative remains unchanged even after the resolutions of the Likud Central Committee. Jerusalem's reactions to this announcement are split: While the Foreign Ministry regards this as a reaffirmation of U.S. support for the initiative, other political sources, whose identity remains undisclosed, link this statement to Secretary Baker's desire to obtain the PLO's support for the Israeli Government's initiative. The reactions in Jerusalem are

The Israeli clarifications which Secretary Baker ultimately received were transmitted to the U.S. Administration via various parallel diplomatic channels: Through talks held last week by the prime minister and the foreign minister with U.S. Ambassador William Brown, and in meetings in Washington between Israel's ambassador, Moshe Arad, and administration officials.

The Foreign Ministry regards Baker's statement as a confirmation of the U.S. position, which supports the Israeli Government's political initiative. Nonetheless, officials in Jerusalem told us last night that we should temper our enthusiasm and distinguish the difference between the position of the State Department, which feels committed to the initiative, and that of the White House and President Bush, which is a bit more reserved. Bush's cool attitude toward the initiative was expressed already last week, when he canceled the trip to Israel of the exploratory mission appointed by Secretary of State James Baker.

Other political sources told us yesterday that the explanation for Secretary Baker's announcement should be seen against the backdrop of his desire to obtain the PLO's acceptance of the Israeli initiative and to preserve the momentum that was created by that initiative.

U.S.-PLO Dealings Reported

TA1707090389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpt] The United States has offered the PLO a considerable upgrade of the level of dialogue in return for an affirmative decision by the PLO Executive Committee on the issue of Israel's election initiative at its scheduled meeting at the end of this month. This was reported yesterday by political sources in Jerusalem.

Against the background of these developments, Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, made some very harsh remarks yesterday about the U.S.-PLO dialogue. "The moment of truth is drawing closer in Israeli-U.S. relations, in view of the talks with the PLO," he said.

The United States has recently relayed numerous messages to 'Arafat, urging him to embrace the election initiative and promising to support alternative initiatives, including an international conference with the participation of the PLO, if Israel foils its own initiative.

At the same time, Alignment elements have received messages from Washington urging them not to secede from the government at this stage and to wait for a decision to be made in the Fatah institutions. The Americans fear that the dissolution of the government at is time will disrupt their planned move, according to which 'Arafat is scheduled to officially announce his support for the peace initiative, thus enabling the United States to intensify its pressure on Israel. [passage omitted]

'Moment of Truth' Said Near

TA1607173789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says that the moment of truth is drawing closer in Israeli-U.S. relations in view of the tightened relations between the U.S. Administration and the PLO.

In an interview with a REUTER correspondent in Jerusalem, the Prime Minister's Office director general further said that by continuing the dialogue with the PLO, the Bush administration endangers its credibility and sabotages Israel's peace initiative. The United States, said Ben-Aharon, must choose between continuing its dialogue with the PLO and promoting Israel's peace initiative; the two cannot coexist. If the present situation continues, it will have an effect on Israeli-U.S. relations.

No 'Understanding' Reached in Cabinet Meeting

TA1607135489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] In its meeting which ended some time ago, the cabinet reached no understanding on the issue of the political initiative. During the session, a query was submitted by Minister Der'i, requesting clarification on whether any changes in or additions to the government-approved political initiative had taken place. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 16 July reports that "the subject of the Alignment-Likud crisis was discussed this morning by Ministers Shamir, Peres, Rabin, and Arens." The report goes on to state that "apparently, the political crisis may end today. The four ministers agreed that in the cabinet meeting, Interior Minister Arye Der'i will pose a political query to the prime minister. The prime minister's reply will have to appease the Alignment, allowing it to remain in the government."]

The prime minister replied unequivocally that the initiative has not changed and that there has been no request to change or add to it; that it binds the government, which will act to promote it. The prime minister was ready to hold a vote on the issue and most of the ministers were in favor; at that point, however, Vice Prime Minister Peres asked that the debate be halted because he wished to weigh the question of formulation. The prime minister, who wished to avoid another confrontation with the vice prime minister, said that the matter will be brought up for a vote in one of the cabinet's upcoming meetings after an agreed formulation is attained.

Some time ago, the Cabinet concluded the discussion of a supplement to the defense budget, which had been requested so as to finance expenditures on the intifadah [uprising]. Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that this week the prime minister, defense minister, and finance minister will attempt to reach an agreement on the amount of the supplement. If they fail to reach an agreement, the issue will be decided in the next cabinet meeting.

At the meeting, Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded to know how the budget supplement will affect the elimination of the intifadah, the elimination of terrorism, and the elimination of terrorist organization heads, Yasir 'Arafat first and foremost. Minister Sharon said he would support a higher increment if he receives answers to these questions.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman said he would support increasing the defense budget, but in his opinion, defense policy and the budget must undergo a general revision. In his opinion, resources could be funneled to fighting the intifadah by eliminating IDF Radio, or even by eliminating the Science and Technology Ministry, which he heads.

Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said that his ministry, too, requires additional funds to finance intifadah-related police activities. Our correspondent notes that the supplement demanded by the Defense Ministry stands at 409 million shekels. The Treasury is willing to allot it only about 100 million shekels.

More on Cabinet Meeting

TA1707090689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev, Dan Petreanu, and Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir is now prepared to dismiss Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon or Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i from the cabinet if they persist in challenging his authority and the government's peace initiative, well-placed Likud sources said following yesterday's cabinet meeting.

"Shamir is fed up with Sharon and Moda'i and will not allow them to continue challenging his authority," the sources said. "Sooner, rather than later, he will put his foot down and fire them."

The crisis between Likud and Labour deepened yesterday as Vice-Premier Peres indicated that he would not be satisfied with anything less than a complete disavowal by Shamir of the Likud's constraints on the initiative. [passage omitted]

Both Labour and Likud are now beset by internal differences about how to resolve the crisis. Sharon, Moda'i

Shamir's readiness to reaffirm the initiative. "The Likud ministers have unequivocally stated that the Likud decisions obligate all the ministers, and first and foremost the prime minister himself," he said.

Sharon warned the cabinet that it was dealing with "stylistic contortions" that would lead to an inevitable crisis with Washington. "One must realize," Sharon said, "how great the damage will be if the government continues to speak in obscure terms, and then Washington satisfies both PLO-Tunis and PLO-Jerusalem and then they realize that elections cannot be held because of the Likud positions.

"Likud ministers are bound by the Likud Central Committee decisions," Sharon said.

On the other hand, Peres is unwilling to make do with a simple ratification of Shamir's statements. Sources close to Peres said he would demand that the proposal to the cabinet explictly reject the Likud constraints, stipulate that the eradication of the intifadah [uprising] was not a precondition for starting negotiations, state that only those settlements decided on by the government would be erected and that the matter of the participation of East Jerusalem in elections had been left open, and that the cabinet was bound only by the government's peace initiative.

Peres' position, however, is bound to be rejected by Shamir and does not seem to enjoy the support of his own party either. Ministers Rafi Edri and Mordekhay Gur were willing yesterday to vote on Shamir's statements without any additions, while sources close to Rabin said yesterday that Peres' demand for additions "reflects only Peres' position."

Labour and Likud sources said last night that the two parties would be holding meetings to formulate their positions, and that joint meetings could be expected later in the week to try and hammer out a joint formula for submission to the cabinet on Sunday. [passage omitted]

The widespread feeling in Labour yesterday was that the crisis had been buried too soon by the press, which reported widely that the crisis was on the verge of resolution.

Senior Alignment Members Offer Counterconditions

TA1607143889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Senior Alignment elements told our correspondent Shalom Oren that if the cabinet is presented with a joint Likud-Alignment formulation on the peace initiative, the following clauses will be ending the intifadah [uprising]; no additional settlements beyond those stipulated in the coalition agreement will be set up; cabinet ministers will be bound by the government's decisions only; and the East Jerusalem issue will remain open. [passage omitted]

New Cabinet Vote Demanded

TA1607152689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 16 Jul 89

[From the news headlines]

[Text] The prime minister's statement has not appeased the Alignment, which demands that the political initiative be submitted for another vote. Here is what Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said on the subject:

[Begin recording] [Peres] The decision is very clear; we have returned to the former situation.

[Television political correspondent Yig'al Goren] A decision to be made through a cabinet vote?

[Peres] Yes, absolutely.

[Goren] Do you believe it has a chance of being endorsed?

[Peres] I do not know. This is in fact what Mr Shamir proposed: That an agreed statement be voted on. [end recording]

[In its repeat headlines at the end of the newscast, IDF Radio adds: "Reacting to remarks by Peres aides, sources in the Prime Minister's Office charged Shim'on Peres with attempting to foil the efforts aimed at ending the political crisis. Sources in Yitzhaq Shamir's bureau told us a few minutes ago that the prime minister's remarks at today's cabinet meeting were plain and unequivocal, and that they were acceptable to the majority of ministers, including Alignment ministers. Shim'on Peres, said the sources, has his own reasons for erecting obstacles. For this reason only, the crisis could not be ended today."]

Shamir on Likud Resolution, Government Crisis

TA1407095289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Jul 89 p B2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon: "It Is Inconceivable That Ari'el Sharon Will Be No 1 in the Likud;" date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Mr Prime Minister, are you in a political trap?

[Shamir] I do not know what a political trap is. There are various political situations. I do not see myself in any kind of trap

[Shilon] You will have to disavow either the Likud Central Committee resolution or those adopted by the cabinet. Is this not a trap?

[Shamir] I see no reason to disavow any resolution to which I was party: neither those passed by the Likud nor by the cabinet.

[Shilon] On the face of it, there seems to be a contradiction here. You supported a Likud Central Committee resolution that is binding on the Likud representatives in the cabinet.

[Shamir] There is no contradiction here.

[Shilon] If Likud representatives in the cabinet who are faithful to the Central Committee resolutions demand a vote on the proposed adjustments to the political initiative, will you support this?

[Shamir] No one is demanding changes to the political initiative.

[Shilon] The Likud Central Committee resolution stipulates, for example, that the Arab residents of East Jerusalem will not be allowed to take part in the elections. Is this not a change in the initiative? How will you act if this item is brought before the cabinet?

[Shamir] I will follow my judgment and conscience, which are compatible with the Likud resolution. It too is in line with my conscience and understanding.

[Shilon] What the Likud decided, however, does not correspond to the cabinet resolution.

[Shamir] The cabinet has made no decision on the issue of the East Jerusalem Arabs' participation in any elections in the framework of the initiative.

[Shilon] Nonetheless, it is no accident that the issue of the East Jerusalem Arabs was not clearly mentioned in the political initiative approved by the cabinet. Does the fact that the issue was left open not indicate that you reached an understanding with the Alignment that this is the only way this issue could be presented and possible disputes between the components of the government avoided?

[Shamir] No one asked to leave anything open. The initiative is not a plan; it is a group of ideas that should be shaped. This will happen only after an Arab element agrees in principle to accept the initiative as we presented it. We will have plenty of time to discuss the details and the implementation of the initiative at that time. This has not happened so far. As for the issue of the East Jerusalem Arabs, anyone familiar with the political situation in Israel could have known, without doubt, what the Likud position is. In the Likud Central Committee meeting I mentioned an earlier cabinet resolution, adopted during the autonomy negotiations in 1982 according to which the Arab residents will not be able to participate in the elections. I see no reason to change my position today. I have reiterated this position on many occasions before the Likud Central Committee meeting; therefore, I see no contradiction or trap here.

[Shilon] Could the initiative be brought before the cabinet for another discussion?

[Shamir] I see no reason to discuss the initiative again. A resolution once made stands. Theoretically speaking, there could always be a discussion of a revision of this or other matter, but this is not necessary.

[Shilon] How will you treat a possible demand by Ari'el Sharon, David Levi, or Yitzhaq Moda'i to add several corrections to the political initiative in the spirit of the Likud Central Committee resolution?

[Shamir] I would consider whether the suggestion is worthy of being presented on the cabinet agenda. We have on our agenda many proposals that have not yet been brought before the cabinet, and there are other ministers' proposals that I choose not to raise for debate. It is my prerogative.

[Shilon] Are we witnessing a new rift between the Likud and the Alignment in the cabinet?

[Shamir] There can always be disagreements on the implementation of the initiative, but this is still premature. This debate will be in order only after negotiations with the Arabs reach a practical stage. So far nothing has happened and nothing has changed. That is why I see no reason to start an argument between the Alignment and us.

[Shilon] I would like a conclusive answer on the initiative: Will the Israeli Government introduce changes to the initiative as it originally was proposed by you and approved?

[Shamir] There is no doubt in my mind that the Israeli Government will change nothing of the political initiative as it was accepted in May, and which was approved by the Knesset.

[Shilon] What if the Alignment demands—as a condition for staying in the government—that a new vote is held on the initiative? Will you agree to that?

[Shamir] This is not practical. I do not believe anyone would ask for a second vote unless he wants to introduce a revision of the initiative. I would be willing to repeat the vote, though it does not seem to me that anyone would ask for it.

[Shilon] What will you be willing to do to keep the Alignment in the government?

[Shamir] I do not think I should do anything. I give one answer at a time. I do not dry my brains out in search for more reasons—in addition to the convincing reasons that now exist—to maintain the unity government.

[Shilon] Will you agree to a rotation in the post of prime minister with Shim'on Peres in return for the assurance of national unity and the peace process?

[Shamir] There is no room for that. I also heard Peres deny making this demand. There is no point in raising such questions. What does this have to do with the peace process?

[Shilon] Should my conclusion now be that the Labor Bureau recommendation to quit the government stems from irrelevant considerations and reasons that have nothing to do with the plan?

[Shamir] I believe so. I see no relevant reason for drawing far-reaching conclusions linked with an initiative that has not yet taken off.

[Shilon] What do you believe are the Labor Party's motives?

[Shamir] You should ask them. I am not an expert on Labor Party affairs.

[Shilon] You have spent many years in government with them. Do you not know them by now?

[Shamir] The truth is that I am trying to see the positive aspects. I am looking for ways to continue the cooperation between us. I am sure it serves the country's best interests. That is why I am very concerned now with this cooperation stopping due to a Labor decision. This could cause damage to the state, and I believe most people in Israel do not view it favorably.

[Shilon] Shim'on Peres is disappointed in you not only in the political sphere, but as finance minister he did not get your support recently.

[Shamir] I do not think he received no support from me. I have supported him on almost everything. Shim'on Peres, however, has not done enough to earn my support. I cannot recall a finance minister who so often attacks his partner party in the government. You can hear his sharp attacks on the Likud every day. In most cases I restrained myself because I believe that the unity of the government has to be maintained.

[Shilon] Will you also not react to the absence of the Alignment Knesset faction during a no-confidence vote in Knesset this week?

[Shamir] This issue has legal aspects to it. As far as I am familiar with it, they acted within the framework of the law.

[Shilon] Is there no way to avoid elections if the government breaks up?

[Shamir] There is no other way. We have an agreement that says just that. True, the agreement refers to the fall of the government as a result of a no-confidence vote, and not to a case in which one of its partners wishes to quit. There is no option, however, for a narrow-based government. It is not good for the state; it is not good for anyone. We will have to opt for elections, although this is not good either. Early elections, held less than a year after we ended the previous campaign, indicate a lack of consideration for the country's interests. It often happens in unstable countries. It is damaging to our economy. It is damaging to our prestige in the world. In any event, we will have to choose between two evils. Naturally, I would prefer that the unity government continue functioning.

[Shilon] Still, you were quick to meet representatives of the religious parties this week. What did you talk about?

[Shamir] These meeting have no relevance whatsoever to what is called "a narrow-based government." We maintain constant meetings with the parties that are partners in the government. These are partners that have various demands and wishes on which we work together. We are not talking about a narrow-based government at the moment.

[Shilon] The Alignment predicates its stay in the government on the answers you present to the U.S. delegation that is due to arrive here shortly. What will you tell the Americans concerning the right of East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the elections?

[Shamir] I do not see the connection between the unity government remaining in power and the arrival of the U.S. delegation. This is an internal Israeli matter.

[Shilon] But what will you tell the Americans?

[Shamir] I will answer them when they ask. I have no intention whatsoever of giving my answers now.

[Shilon] The Americans are disappointed with you and sharply criticize what was said and decided on in the Likud Central Committee.

[Shamir] I am not obligated to respond to everything that gets published. I have to make statements only when it concerns the country's interests and needs. For example, I have expressed my objection to the dialogue held between the United States and the PLO more than once. What did this change? I am convinced that these contacts are damaging the peace initiative and are diminishing its chances of success. I keep saying that, and hear no U.S. response. From this lack of response I gather that there is a U.S. decision to continue these talks. That is why I am not obligated to comment today to what they say on my statements in the Likud Central Committee. They will gather from this that I remain faithful to my way.

[Shilon] Not only do the Americans continue with their talks with the PLO, we also heard testimony before a congressional subcommittee from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly from which it becomes apparent that Israel is also maintaining ties with that organization.

[Sharon] There has been a media error here. I asked to see the full transcript of Kelly's remarks. He said that he has no knowledge of any formal ties. There is talk of all kinds of informal contacts, but he knows nothing of formal ones.

[Shilon] Does Israel hold informal and indirect contacts with the PLO?

[Shamir] There are no indirect contacts. These are silly stories. The United States is talking to the PLO, and Israel is on speaking terms with the United States. This does not mean that there are connections between us and the PLO. Should we stop talking to the United States?

[Shilon] Are you denying the existence of any direct or indirect contacts between Israel and the PLO? Even senior ministers in your government, both from the Likud and from the Alignment—Sharon, Levi, and Navon, among others—told me in earlier interviews that indirect negotiations are being held with the PLO. Did they lie?

[Shamir] They may well be senior ministers, still they may be saying wrong things.

[Shilon] You give great consideration to U.S. public opinion, you even mentioned it in the Likud Central Committee. At present we are witnessing a new erosion in the comments made about Israel. For example, THE NEW YORK POST, which is considered a pro-Israeli newspaper, this week said: "Shamir and Sharon are irreparable fanatics." Does this not worry you?

[Shamir] Of course I cannot remain indifferent to such remarks. Our relationship with the United States, both with the Congress and in public opinion, is very important to us. We have not been spoiled there. Through the years we have heard many things we did not like. We should counter this. We need to explain the situation to them so that they will reconsider their negative attitude.

[Shilon] Perhaps because of the very fact that your views are well-known, and because you remain loyal to your views—as you have just said—was not the political initiative doomed to failure? Without negotiations with the PLO, without territorial concessions, and perhaps without a Palestinian state, the plan has no chance.

[Shamir] That is wrong. The initiative is constructed in such a way that it can succeed within the framework of the world view of both sides. It is meant to settle the conflict between us and the Arabs without harming the principles of either side. It was formulated with great care. The first stage of the negotiations has no ideological aspect whatsoever. I do not accept the formula of peace-for-territories in the second stage. I said that negotiations on the permanent solution will try to achieve a solution that will be agreed upon by both sides. That is possible without either side giving up its principles.

[Shilon] How is that possible if in the first stage—which, in your words, is not an ideological stage—you do not find a negotiating partner?

[Shamir] If a partner is not found then it is really not possible. We offer the initiative under the assumption that a partner must be found. We are convinced that the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are interested in joining the negotiating process with us, although our views are divided. During the negotiations they might improve their status.

[Shilon] Will you be holding contacts with Palestinian representatives over the coming days in order to implement the initiative?

[Shamir] I will hold contacts with Palestinian circles, as I have in the past.

[Shilon] Despite the fact that the intifadah [uprising] is still continuing?

[Shamir] That is correct. I have not forbidden contacts with Palestinians. The decision adopted on that issue in the Likud Central Committee, which some find so disturbing, refers to negotiations to implement the initiative. Negotiations mean official negotiations in an advanced stage. We are now speaking about initial talks, feelers, and clarifications. These talks are aimed at understanding the situation, and for each side to get to know the other. That should be done, and it is being done.

[Shilon] What is your reaction to attacks by Jews on Arabs?

[Shamir] I have said many times that I am opposed to such actions. They cause only damage and do not serve anybody. They should be stopped, and must be prevented.

[Shilon] As a former freedom fighter and former terrorist can you understand the Palestinian way of thinking? Can you not see the Palestinian struggle as a national freedom struggle?

[Shamir] I do not think that the Palestinians are freedom fighters. They are part of the Arab people and we must not forget that. The Arab world has 21 countries, and any Arab can live a full nationalist life there. We have only one small state. If we want to be independent and live our lives we do not have any alternative to Eretz Yisra'el. We must also not forget that the conflict with the Arab world is only over part of Eretz Yisra'el. The large part of Eretz Yisra'el is today an Arab state. The conflict is only over western Eretz Yisra'el. It is a legitimate conflict between the Jewish Israeli people and the Arab world over that land. There is no similarity between the English who came from England and ruled India, and Eretz Yisra'el. The Palestinians are part of the Arab people. It is not their freedom struggle and we are not occupiers.

[Shilon] Was it a struggle over who will assume the Likud leadership after you leave which caused the Likud internal struggle, which led to the recent central committee meeting?

[Shamir] Talk about an inheritance struggle has been going on since before I joined the Likud. There has been talk about that for many years. There were those who forecast that my present role would be very short-lived. I do not get excited over such talk. There might be an internal struggle going on now, that is normal in party life. What disturbs me is that there are those who try to translate the personal struggle into an ideological one.

[Shilon] Are you referring to Ari'el Sharon?

[Shamir] I am referring to the phenomenon as such. There are no ideological differences in the Likud. Even if somebody tries very hard to find such differences, he will not find them. That was evident at the Likud Central Committee meeting.

[Shilon] If there are no ideological differences, let us talk about personal struggles. Has Ari'el Sharon's power base strengthened following the latest central committee meeting?

[Shamir] Personal wars are alien to me; I never participated in such wars, but what was printed in the media after the central committee meeting is completely contrary to the truth. One cannot say about anybody in the Likud that he has gained in strength at the expense of the prime minister. Certainly not.

[Shilon] Did he gain strength at the expense of others in the Likud who aspire to the job of prime minister?

[Shamir] That is also not the case. The central committee meeting proved that there is complete unity in the Likud.

[Shilon] Just to remind you, we are talking about the human angle.

[Shamir] That is correct. Whoever tries to instigate a dispute in the Likud for personal reasons will be castigated.

[Shilon] Do you not think that the status of the group of young leaders in the Likud has been damaged following the central committee meeting?

[Shamir] Certainly not. I am very proud of the fact that I try to promote people. I would be harming our future if I did not do that.

[Shilon] Is there a possibility that Ari'el Sharon will one day be number one in the Likud?

[Shamir] It is inconceivable.

[Shilon] You are now speaking with great excitement. Why?

[Shamir] I am not speaking with excitement. That is my evaluation. Likud unity is important to me.

[Shilon] The caricature published in HA'ARETZ a week ago, which showed you in the form of a dove with the four braces tying back your wings and strangling you—do you not think that fits your condition?

[Shamir] Not at all. What they call the braces are things that have always been part of the Likud platform. I also participated in formulating them. Anyone whose business is state affairs must on one hand be loyal to his principles, and on the other, try to implement them. I would never do anything at the expense of my loyalty to principles. [passage omitted]

Shamir Urged To Disavow Likud Resolution

TA1607125289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 89 p 9

[Editorial: "Bush Catches the Government by the Tongue"]

[Text] President George Bush's remark to the press that "no delegation will leave on behalf of the U.S. President (to the Middle East)," indicates differences of opinions on the policy level—and therefore on the procedural level—between the President and the State Department. Bush made it unequivocally clear that it is the President who makes U.S. policy, even though the State Department has "a lot to contribute to it." These differences of opinions on whether to send a delegation or an envoy to Israel should not be interpreted as indicating that the President and his secretary of state are not, in substance, aiming at the same goal. Especially, one should not be tempted to believe that not sending the delegation shows some U.S. intention to abandon its commitment to promote the peace process in the Israeli-Arab region.

The U.S. President understands the political difficulties that the well-known political initiative created on the Israeli scene. By saying this, Bush hinted at the Likud Central Committee session and the resolution it accepted. He refuses, however, to change U.S. policy in accordance with the upheavals that take place in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. "I cannot adapt U.S. policy to daily changes, and I have no intention of doing so.... I want to see the peace process and the elections process move forward."

Ari'el Sharon, David Levi, and Yitzhaq Moda'i have and still do claim that their four principles (the "braces") will in fact strengthen the political initiative. The U.S. President, however, doubts this. Had he been convinced that the braces were of a strengthening quality, he would have said, "wonderful." At the same time he pointed to a contradictory interpretation ("what took place does not strengthen the possibility of elections"), and refrained from denying its negative meaning.

Bush again stressed his opposition to settlements, a strong opposition. "We had better be frank with our friends. Israel has been and will be our friend, but I have to state our policy."

Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens are trying to persuade our friends in Washington that the 14 May cabinet resolution still holds. The U.S. President says that changes in the Israeli internal political arena are none of his concern. As far as the United States is concerned, there is an Israeli decision, and Bush has no intention of taking into consideration addenda made by some partisan body. On the face of it, it seems that Shamir and Bush are in agreement. Shamir can, therefore, be pleased with Bush's stand.

Nonetheless, even if we assume that the belittlement of the Likud resolution as expressed by President Bush might strengthen Shamir's status within the Likud, the rebellious trio will probably not stop pressuring the prime minister. If Shamir wishes to avoid a confrontation with the United States, he should find a way to free himself of the pressure exerted by Sharon and company. Meaning: He should disavow his party's central committee resolution. Only Shamir can free himself from this.

Air Force Commander Warns of Drop in 'Readiness'

TA1707103889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] If the government does not reimburse the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for its expenses in fighting the intifadah [uprising] the Air Force will be forced to make cuts which will impair its ability to meet the ever-increasing threats from the Arab states, Israel Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun said yesterday.

Speaking to defence reporters in anticipation of Air Force Day to be marked later this week, Bin-Nun said that the IDF's budget had been based on the assumption that it would be reimbursed for the cost of the intifadah. If the money was not forthcoming, he said, the Air Force would be forced to transfer NIS [new Israeli shekels] 100 million from its budget to the Logistics Branch, to pay for such items as rubber bullets and other equipment used to fight demonstrators.

He said the NIS 100m. [million] cut would come from the most flexible parts of the Air Force budget—weapons development and flight training hours.

"We would have to halt development programmes already in progress, and spend less on fuel and flight hours, which are a significant portion of our overall budget. The effect wouldn't be felt the first year, but later on. Flight hours are the one thing we can give our pilots to maintain their level of readiness."

Bin-Nun said the Air Force spends some NIS 250 million per year on fuel alone. Other figures he revealed on training costs;
—NIS 25,000 for one flight-hour for an F-15.
—NIS 1.8 million put one pilot through flight school.
—NIS 4.9 million—one pilot's flight time for a year.
—NIS 11.2 million to become a full-fledged F-15 pilot.

Bin-Nun said the IAF's [Israel Air Force] routine activities are aimed at providing answers to strategic threats, among them the surface-to-surface missile and chemical warfare capabilities of Iraq and Syria.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew in a smiliar report by the military correspondent on pages 1 and 3 adds that the Air Force commander believes "the Iraqis have still not lost their desire to retaliate for the attack on their nuclear reactor in Baghdad." Bin-Nun believes that "when a war breaks out, Air Force bases located deep inside Israel will be the target of aircraft and missile attacks." He noted, however, that "the Air Force is preparing for such an eventuality."]

Rabin on Budget Cut

TA1707110489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says a $600 million budget cut 5 years ago seriously affected the battle order of the Israel Defense Forces. Speaking on Israeli radio this morning, Rabin said: As a result of this cutback, 17 percent of the country's combat planes were grounded, one-eighth of the tank force was frozen, and the number of servicemen was reduced. Imports and defense production were also harmed, he said.

The defense minister said he had agreed to the smaller budget because of the economic situation at the time, the peace with Egypt, and the ongoing Gulf war. Things have changed now, and the Army now has to contend with the intifadah [uprising] without any extra funds.

Rabin also warned about what he termed retroactive commissions of inquiry that might be appointed as a result of the lower budget levels.

On the political crisis, the defense minister expressed regret that Finance Minister Peres yesterday postponed the vote on a statement of policy by the prime minister.

West Bank Schools To Begin Reopening 22 Jul

TA1607145589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Studies in Judaea and Samaria schools will resume next Saturday [22 July]. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. During the first stage, studies will resume in elementary schools and in the highest grade in high schools. Studies in the other grades will resume gradually, at a later date.

Classes in Judaea and Samaria schools have been strike-bound most of the time since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising]. The Civil Administration emphasized today to heads of education bureaus in the region that the condition for the resumption of classes is that the schools will not be centers for disturbances. Still, it has already been reported that a general strike, called for by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], will be staged on Saturday, when classes are scheduled to resume.

Principals Express 'Satisfaction'

TA1707140089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, today met with some 300 Arab school principals. They discussed Saturday's expected reopening of Judaea and Samaria schools. Gen Erez discussed the principals' responsibility in preventing student unrest. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports that the headmasters expressed satisfaction with the resumption of studies.

Jewish Presence in Old City Increasing

TA1607194589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The State Attorney's Office has announced that the defense authorities intend to seal off the apartment above Minister Ari'el Sharon's in the Old City of Jerusalem. Our Arab affairs correspondent reports that reference is to the apartment of the Tamas family, two of whose members are in jail on charges of activity on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; one of them had also confessed to hurling Molotov cocktails in various parts of the city, including at the U.S. Consulate. In March the High Court of Justice issued a show cause order banning action against the Tamas apartment, and next week the court will hold another hearing in which a representative of the State Attorney's Office will explain the decision to seal it off. In her appeal, the apartment's owner claimed that pressures have been exerted on her and her sons to agree to evacuate the apartment.

Meanwhile, a quiet effort has been made lately to expand Jewish residence in the Old City of Jerusalem beyond the bounds of the Jewish Quarter. Minister Sharon actively participated in contacts on the matter, but says that nothing has developed. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari has the details:

[Begin recording] Several buildings on Ararat Street at the corner of Ashurim, occupying an area of about 900 square meters, are on the border between the Jewish and Armenian Quarters in the Old City. Some of them are empty after their tenants were evacuated due to a danger of collapse. We have learned that Sharon lately appealed personally to wealthy Jews to allocate considerable funds for the effort to purchase these buildings and expand the area of Jewish residency in the quarter. The need to raise more than $4 million toward this end was discussed. 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva activists were unwilling to go into detail when asked about their role in this matter. They emphasized that they prefer to shun all political aspects. [end recording]

Minister Sharon chose not to be interviewed for this report, but in a talk with our correspondent, he said that in fact the Jewish Quarter has no clear boundaries apart from those arbitrarily determined during the War of Liberation. Sharon said he is indeed aiding the expansion of Jewish residency, adding that 28 Jewish families now live beyond the bounds of the Jewish Quarter in the Old City.

Elsewhere, an Arab girl was critically injured and a mother and her daughter were slightly injured when a car in which they were traveling overturned in the village of al-'Ayzariyah in East Jerusalem after stones were thrown at it. Our police affairs correspondent reports that the Judaea District police believe that the stone throwers thought the car was owned by Jews.

A 50-year-old Arab from Halhul was injured this afternoon while driving his car on Pat-Gilo Street in Jerusalem. He was slightly injured in the face by a bottle thrown at his car.

2 Youths Killed in Gaza Strip 14 Jul

TA1407201489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Two youths were killed in clashes with soldiers in the Gaza Strip this afternoon: Al-Nasir Subhi Musa, 20, was killed in Khan Yunus; and Sha'ir Abu-Hayan, 15, at the Jabalyah refugee camp. The latter's body was snatched by youths and buried at the camp.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a Border Police unit this afternoon rescued a 17-year-old youth from drowning. Two families from al-Nusayrat refugee camp went to the beach, and two youths drifted out to sea and began drowning. The families appealed to a Border Police unit for help. Two policemen jumped into the water and managed to rescue one of the youths. They tried to resuscitate the other youth, but he died in the hospital.

More on 14, 15 Jul Incidents

TA1507172889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Two Gaza youths suspected of having murdered Zalman Shlein of Gan Yavne handed over to the police the knives used in the murder. The spokesman for the Southern District police told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that an interrogation of the two indicates that they are members in the popular committee of al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza, and that the murder had been planned and committed against a nationalist rather than the earlier reported criminal background.

Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, visited the Gaza Strip today and debriefed both officers and soldiers about the circumstances of the deaths of two Gaza Strip residents yesterday. The debriefing indicates that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers acted according to orders and regulations.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a curfew was imposed on the Jabalyah and Khan Yunus refugee camps yesterday, and that a curfew was imposed on the village of Bayt Hanun today. Three residents were wounded at the Jabalyah refugee camp in a clash with the security forces today.

In Judaea and Samaria, the curfew was lifted from the towns of Janin and Nabulus. A curfew was imposed on the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm after two residents were wounded there yesterday in clashes with the security forces.

16 Jul Incidents in Territories

TA1707101889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Nadav Shragay, and territories correspondents]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Palestinian sources have reported that five Gaza Strip residents were wounded in yesterday's clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

In the Tulkarm refugee camp, an 11 year old and a 70 year old were wounded by soldiers' gunfire. Arab sources said that the boy, Ashraf Wafi 'Ayyad, was hit in the head by a plastic-coated metal marble and was evacuated to the Ramallah Public Hospital in critical condition. The old man, Hasan Ahmad Sara, was injured in the left ear and was hospitalized in Tulkarm. According to official army sources, the two were wounded in clashes between residents and soldiers.

Yesterday, a 50-year-old resident of Halhul sustained injuries after an empty bottle was hurled at his Peugeot car near the Pat-Gilo intersection in Jerusalem. This is the sixth incident in the past 2 days in which an Arab was injured as a result of stones and other objects hurled by Jews. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 17 July, in a report by Me'ir Hare'uveni and Rahamim Ya'aqov on page A2, adds: "A roadside bomb exploded in Bayt al-Ma' near Nabulus as an Israeli vehicle was passing by. No one was hurt. A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday at an army vehicle from the Balatah refugee camp. The bottle ignited, but no one was injured. Rioting and stoning of Israeli cars took place in 'Anabta, along the Tulkarm-Nabulus axis. The army escorted vehicles along this route all day yesterday."]

Hamas Leaflet Demands End to PLO-U.S. Talks

TA1607104489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] A leaflet disseminated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories demands that the PLO stop its dialogue with the United States. Hamas also voices its objection to the election plan. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the flyer warns notables in the territories—without naming names—against any attempt to harm the intifadah [uprising], and calls on the populace to refuse to accept entry permits distributed by the Civil Administration in Gaza.

The leaflet also marks dates for strikes and demonstrations.

King Husayn Comments on Internal Scene, Elections

JN1707070889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jul 89 p 1

[From Rania Atalla in London]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On the internal Jordanian scene, the King said: "I have looked at the past period and I believe that I personally probably was not as involved as I might have otherwise been in the affairs of Jordan internally. I had focused my attentions on the Arab World and the world scene."

King Husayn said he would work for completely free and democratic elections for a parliament that would represent the Jordanian people.

In response to a question on whether elections to the Lower House of Parliament would allow opposition political parties to participate, King Husayn said: "There are some limitations within the election law but as far as I am concerned at this point in time, I certainly would wish and would work for completely free elections, giving all Jordanians a chance to run for the elections and to exercise their right to elect a parliament that represents them."

He said the decision to resume parliamentary life had been reached before the riots that hit some parts of the Kingdom in mid-April, and that preparations towards this end were currently taking place.

On the subject of the July 1988 disengagement from the West Bank, King Husayn said that breaking legal and administrative ties helped improve relations with the Palestinians.

"It (the decision) contributed towards movement and motion, focussing the attention of the world on the problem where it lies... the problem of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil," he said. As a result, the King said, relations with the Palestinians were now based on confidence and trust.

"In our actions we have ceded sovereignty over the West Bank. Sovereignty is for the Palestinians on their national soil," King Husayn said. He said a Palestinian state could not threaten Jordan in any form or way.

"The question is a question of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil. The Palestinians opted for an independent Palestinian state and that is their right," he said. An independent Palestinian state "could not threaten Jordan, it would not threaten Jordan in any form or way," he said."

Asked if he thought he would see a solution to the Palestinian problem which has existed since four decedes, the King said: "This is my dearest wish and all that remains for me is to contribute whatever I can with Jordan... so that future generations in our areas can enjoy a life of justice and peace and dignity."

King Husayn Says Shamir Plan 'Unacceptable'

JN1607111789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] London—His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated his support for an international peace conference on the Middle East. He called on the international community and Israel's allies to convince it to move toward a peaceful settlement. In an interview with British television yesterday, his majesty the king called on Israel to reveal its stand frankly. He also called on the world's countries to save the region and its countries from the effects of Israeli policy and its consequent dangers.

Answering a question on Jordan's stand on Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territory, his majesty the king said: This plan is unacceptable in its present form, particularly after its recent amendments, because it denies the Palestinians everything they aspire to achieve.

King Husayn rejected the allegations that the establishment of the State of Palestine could threaten Jordan in any way or form.

Minister Says Paris Announcement 'Positive Stand'

JN1607112389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Culture and Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali has said that the position announced by the seven industrial countries in Paris on the Middle East issue, as well as their call for convening an international conference at the appropriate time with the participation of all parties as a suitable framework for a comprehensive settlement based on the exchange of land for peace, constitutes a positive stand that is in harmony with the Jordanian and Arab stand. He added that the statement of the seven industrial countries on the pressing need to find a solution that respects the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and the rights of all regional states to live in peace and security is also a positive stand.

In a statement to AFP, the culture and information minister expressed his hope that this approach will be reflected within the framework of persistent international efforts to convince Israel to change its stand on the issue of a comprehensive settlement and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination on their occupied territory within a comprehensive settlement through an international conference that will organize the process of a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Jerusalem Notes Decline in Currency Reserves

JN1507120389 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports in Jerusalem, Jordan's hard currency reserves have recently seen a serious decline. They now amount to approximately $100 million only—enough, perhaps, to cover 1 month's imports. The reports say the Jordanian authorities have taken security measures in anticipation of unrest caused by the difficult economic situation, similar to the unrest that took place 3 months ago.

Lifting Blockades, Deputies' Meetings Noted
JN1507165289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Jul 89 p 20

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—[Passage omitted] In Beirut, a government spokesman has informed AL-ITTIHAD that there is a proposal being discussed to find a way out of the security impasse obstructing the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions. The source added that this proposal, which is being discussed by the three-member committee, has won the support of the U.S., French, and USSR ambassadors to Lebanon. This proposal provides for a partial lifting of the blockade off the Beirut port in return for the reopening of the Beirut airport, with the understanding that eight Arab observers will be assigned the task of searching ships.

The source added that General 'Awn voiced his readiness to accept the proposal and help enforce it temporarily "provided that no Syrian officers are included in the Arab observer team."

It has been noticed that U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John McCarthy intensified his contacts with the Lebanese leaders during the past 48 hours. A source close to the U.S. Embassy said that these contacts were held to advise these leaders to work to prevent any security flareup.

The source did not rule out the possibility of inviting Dr Salim al-Huss and Gen Michel 'Awn for a meeting with the foreign ministers of the Arab committee if the situation remains unchanged. This would be an attempt to bring about a relaxation of the situation designed to facilitate the committee's work.

Furthermore, Lebanese parliamentary sources insinuated that there is a possibility for Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Boualem Bessaieh to visit Beirut to convey invitations to the deputies to meet in Algiers. However, the sources linked the materialization of such a visit to securing an agreement on security issues, such as the lifting of blockades and the reopening of Beirut airport after the consolidation of the cease-fire.

A source close to Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, said that the invitations to deputies might be extended to them during the coming 2 weeks. He added that the extension of such invitations would coincide with an announcement on the consolidation of the cease-fire. [passage omitted]

AFP: Tanker Breaks Through Syrian Blockade
NC1507210289 Paris AFP in English 1947 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, July 15 (AFP)—A tanker reportedly broke through a Syrian blockade of Lebanon's Christian region Saturday despite a hail of shells that wounded at least 14 civilians. The artillery duels between the Syrian Army and Lebanese troops loyal to Christian leader General Michel 'Awn were the worst in more than a month, police said.

Syrian gunners rained close to a thousand shells on ports and residential neighborhoods of the Christian region, wounding at least eight people, police said. The shelling reached villages in the far north of the region for the first time in four months of fighting. Gen 'Awn's forces retaliated by shelling Syrian artillery positions in Muslim West Beirut, north Lebanon and in the al-Matn mountain region, police said. Six nearby residents were hurt.

A tanker carrying gasoline braved the shelling and Syrian gunboats patrolling the coastline to reach a Christian-controlled port on the third attempt, according to a spokesman for Gen 'Awn's forces. But a merchant ship turned back out to sea after failing to break the blockade, the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Syrian Gunboats Leave Waters Off Eastern Areas
NC1607054289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The AL-DIYAR newspaper reports today that Syrian gunboats have finally left Lebanese territorial waters off the coast of the eastern areas. Their departure was confirmed during several reconnaissance patrols. It is not known if this departure is final or part of a rotation process. The absence of the gunboats was compensated for by intensifying sea bombardment to prevent ships from entering the ports.

Syrian Warships Withdraw To Avoid Israeli Vessels
NC1607163689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text]The Central News Agency has quoted security sources as saying that the Syrian warships are still patrolling within Lebanese territorial waters and are searching ships approaching the eastern coast for weapons. The sources said the Syrian warships no longer cross a certain line off Jubayl after the Israeli Navy conducted patrols in Lebanese territorial waters and escorted ships carrying vegetables from the south to the eastern coasts. The Syrian warships' withdrawal is the result of an attempt to avoid any confrontation with Israeli warships.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in West Beirut

[Text] Clashes resumed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Beirut's southern suburb last night. The clashes were concentrated in al-Ruways, al-Musharafiyah, Hayy Sfayr, and the al-Mu'allim gas station area. Both combatants used heavy weapons in the clashes that lasted until 0400 today.

1 Killed, 4 Injured

NC1507121689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] The confrontation between Amal and Hizballah resumed at dawn today, and sporadic clashes occurred in a number of the southern suburb's quarters. It was reported that one individual was killed and four others were injured. AFP cites residents in the area as saying that the Syrian army that mans checkpoints in the area of clashes withdrew from their positions when the shooting began, and these units then redeployed in the area this morning.

SLA Shells Towns, Warns Palestinians

NC1707062389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has been using heavy-caliber artillery to shell the area of Buslayya and neighboring valleys since dawn today. An SLA source has warned the Palestinians against remaining in Buslayya, threatening to retaliate by using artillery to shell deep inside the Palestinian camps. The source said that the new Palestinian expansion could portend serious developments in the south.

Al-Huss Comments on Security Deterioration

NC1607101489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Commenting on 'Awn's escalation of the military situation yesterday and today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: If anything, the security deterioration indicates a complete disregard for the life of people in this country and indifference to their unbearable and tragic situation. He added: What increases our concern is the fact that this escalation follows repeated statements about the import of large quantities of arms and ammunition, including some new types, such as FROG missiles, which are without precedent in the struggle in Lebanon. Prime Minister al-Huss said: When General 'Awn boasts that he has so many arms that he can no longer find a place to store them and is annoyed because of their abundance, he undoubtedly realizes that by escalating the arms race he is actually taking the country to a new impasse. None of us is unaware that war favors the accumulation of weapons and that a war causes a reaction. Under the circumstances, it is natural that we should ask: Can it be right or just that the fate of a homeland and people depends on the will of one person, no matter how important he is? This is actually how conditions in Lebanon developed after its constitutional institutions ceased to function.

Al-Huss further said: Gen 'Awn has been taking the country from one impasse to another since 14 March. He started the sea blockade, thus initiating the most violent stage in the history of Lebanese tribulation. He then announced what he termed as the war of liberation, fabricating a useless war which resulted in nothing but tragedies and ruination. He finished by saying there will be no dialogue under occupation, as he put it, thus blocking the way to any initiative for reconciliation which the Arab committee intends to carry out. Now he is involving the country in an arms race, the consequences of which God alone knows. Under such circumstances, we cannot but urge the Arab committee to continue its efforts despite all obstacles and challenges. The Arab initiative provides Lebanon with a precious opportunity which might not recur. We are keen not to miss this opportunity by depending on the Arab committee and its mission.

In conclusion, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The worst thing that can happen to Lebanon is that it be left prey to the arms race among the parties to the conflict.

Al-Husayni on 'Awn's Failure To Divide Lebanon

JN1507062089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has reported the failure of the scheme to divide Lebanon—the scheme which the isolationist forces have been trying to implement with Israeli assistance as a prelude to dividing the Arab region. In an exclusive statement to AL-THAWRAH, al-Husayni said: It is impossible to divide Lebanon because in Lebanon there is one people who have one history and one responsibility for decisions.

Al-Husayni praised the reopening of the crossing points, stressing the nationalist forces' determination to end the crisis. He denounced the negative attitude of the 'Awn clique towards anything positive. Al-Husayni said 'Awn is working to implement a plan that is alien to the nature of Lebanon and its people—a plan that smacks of fragmentation. Al-Husayni said: We will not allow the establishment of a new Israel, noting the convergence of 'Awn's isolationist plan with the Zionist fragmentation plan.

With regard to the legitimacy of the Syrian Arab presence in Lebanon and its national role, al-Husayni said: We cannot but thank and keep faith with sisterly Syria because it has helped Lebanon and worked for many years to prevent the implementation of the Israeli scheme.

The speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies stressed the importance of the work of the tripartite committee and the need to support it because the committee is working in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions.

With regard to the Lebanese crisis, al-Husayni linked the achievement of genuine security in Lebanon and the achievement of a genuine solution that is based on political reforms, the election of a new president of the Republic, and the removal of Michel 'Awn.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Regional Issues
PM1407152589 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Jul 89 p 10

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by I'tidal Salamah in Bonn; date not given]

[Text] [Salamah] When Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was in Germany, he said that the EC was beginning to draw away from the [idea of an] international conference. What do you think?

[Al-Shar'] When I met with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, he emphasized the importance of holding an international conference as the appropriate framework for reaching a just settlement. We believe that an international conference is the right framework for promoting a just and lasting peace that would lead to Israeli withdrawal and fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. We in Syria believe that the intifadah [uprising] has brought new facts to the arena, and all Israeli attempts will fail.

[Salamah] The Casablanca Arab summit conference brought Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat together. What are the obstacles standing in the way of complete Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation?

[Al-Shar'] We in Syria do not proceed on the basis of personal sensitivities. Syria's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict is well known. A dialogue has been in progress between the PLO and Syria for some time and we hope it will continue so we can arrive at some common ground. I believe that the most important task facing the Palestinians is unification of the various factions, because that is the only way to resist Israeli occupation and ensure continuation of the intifadah.

[Salamah] What will be the framework of Syrian-Egyptian relations?

[Al-Shar'] Syrian-Egyptian relations are deeper and more far-reaching than diplomatic relations. Ties between the two countries have been strong and diverse throughout history. In terms of historic events we see that whenever relations between them are good the situation in the region is good, and whenever these relations deteriorate the situation is destabilized. Syria firmly supported Egypt at the time of the Suez invasion.

In 1958 Syria and Egypt merged in complete unity. In 1973 they coordinated their military efforts to regain their occupied territory. We are satisfied with the development of these relations and are fully confident that the hopes we pin on them will be fulfilled in the near future.

[Salamah] The war in Lebanon has taken a new turn with the reported emergence of a Syrian-Iraqi conflict.

[Al-Shar'] Iraq's interference in Lebanese affairs is in the interest of neither the Lebanese people nor the Arab nation. As far as Syria is concerned, that interference does not constitute a real security worry for us.

[Salamah] How do you view the Oran summit results?

[Al-Shar'] Syria hopes that the Oran summit results will put Lebanon on the right path to ending its internal crisis. The messages I delivered from President Hafiz al-Asad to Higher Tripartite Committee Members King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, King Hassan II, and President Chadli Bendjedid reaffirmed Syria's support for the committee's efforts and its willingness to implement the Casablanca resolutions on Lebanon.

[Salamah] In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, you said that Syria refuses to give Israel free recognition. What are your conditions for participation in an international conference?

[Al-Shar'] Syria believes that an international peace conference for the Middle East would be the appropriate framework for promoting a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such a conference must lead to Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and fulfillment of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and to an independent state on their own national soil. Syria also believes the the international conference and settlement of the Middle East question should be based on UN resolutions.

[Salamah] What about the Syrian-Israeli conflict?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that the conflict in the Middle East is not only a Syrian-Israeli conflict, and it is not only a Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is an Arab-Israeli conflict that concerns all the Arab states.

[Salamah] How do you view relations with Iran after Khomeyni? Will the internal changes affect these relations?

[Al-Shar'] Relations were good with Iran under Khomeyni and will continue to be so after him. We believe they will even develop and expand further, as confirmed at our meetings with Iranian officials at the time of Khomeyni's funeral.

[Salamah] The German attorney general continues to interrogate Palestinian detainees in German prisons on suspicion of planning terrorist acts, and he believes that Syria was behind them.

[Al-Shar'] I first met West German Interior Minister Schaeuble when he came to Damascus to receive hostage Cordes in Damascus. On this visit I talked to him about facilitating entry of Syrian subjects. For his part, he expressed concern at the acts of terrorism attributed to the Popular Front-General Command. Syria condemns terrorism and endeavors to fight hostage-taking. It has contributed to the release of many hostages. Since the beginning of the Syrian presence in Beirut there has not been a single kidnapping incident. We believe that national accord and rebuilding of the constitutional institutions in Lebanon would help create the right atmosphere for freeing the rest of the hostages. We have expressed a keen interest in helping our Lebanese brothers in releasing these hostages.

'Awn Seen As 'Stumbling Block' to Solution

JN1507065289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jul 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH's editorial today deals with the Lebanese crisis and ways to solve it. AL-THAWRAH says: General 'Awn is determined to continue his irresponsible acts and pursue his tyrannical illusions and dreams. The price paid by Lebanon is its own destruction, the perpetuation of the whirlpool of crisis, and the prevention of dialogue, reconciliation, and solution. In this, he is supported by Israel and the Iraqi regime to further the scheme to divide Lebanon and turn it into a country of weak sectarian cantons that can be easily devoured and controlled. It is also clear that 'Awn's clique constitutes the stumbling block to a solution that would save Lebanon; safeguard its territorial integrity, its people's unity, and its Arab identity, existence, and affiliation; and defuse the crisis by removing its causes that are inherent in the political system which is being exploited by a factional minority to preserve its privileges at the expense of the majority in Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the mission to save Lebanon, end its crisis and its sons' tribulations, and entrench its national identity requires putting a stop to 'Awn's crimes which attack nationalist Lebanon and its honorable forces. These crimes are prompted by the enemies of Lebanon who obstruct all solutions that would thwart their plans, particularly Israel and the Iraqi regime. The enemies want to create a crisis to divert Arab attention from the main pan-Arab cause, diffuse their efforts, and distract them from the main enemy of the Arab nation.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: It has become clear throughout the years of the crisis that radical political reform is the real path to a solution based on justice, equality, and equality in duties and rights among all the Lebanese. Lebanon can only be saved through its sons' cooperation, equality, solidarity, harmony with their environment, and entrenchment of their Arab identity. This is the only solution that will close the openings through which the Israeli scheme has infiltrated into Lebanon. It is the solution that can remove the obstacles and topple the agents that volunteered to implement this scheme and maintain the abnormal Israeli state of affairs in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH Assails Israeli 'Deception'

JN1407065889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jul 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, headlined "Israel Plays Games of Deception and Time," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes: The Palestinian intifadah [uprising] has placed the Zionist entity in a whirlpool of crises and dilemmas. At the same time, Israel is trying to deceive the world, which has become convinced that Israel rejects peace because it adheres to occupation. While Israel—through the Likud bloc's resolutions and the agreement among the parties constituting the government coalition under Shamir—underlines the continuation of settlement, Zionism and the international powers that support it continue to practice the game of deception. The attempt to differentiate between Shamir and his party is a trick, and the attempt to show the Zionist Labor Party as a peaceful party is a similar trick.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has actually determined its position—not through Likud's decisions but items of the agreement between Labor and Likud, which were based on the well known Zionist no's. All the resolutions of Shamir's party confirmed the agreement of the government coalition between Labor and Likud. The Arab option must correspond to the efforts and sacrifices of the intifadah.

AL-BA'TH concludes: For the Arabs to have a credible stand on the pan-Arab cause, they must prevent the emergence of a new Israel in Lebanon, which Michel 'Awn and his group are trying to achieve. They must also make know their views on the Iraqi regime, which is blocking Arab unity. Furthermore, they must make 200 million Arabs an effective power that can impose a sound Arab position.

NPF Delegation Leaves for Bulgaria 16 Jul

JN1607171189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—On the official invitation of the National Front of the friendly People's Republic of Bulgaria, a delegation from Syria's National Progressive Front [NPF] command, headed by Comrade Dr Tawfiq Salhah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and member of the NPF command, today left Damascus for Bulgaria.

The delegation will hold talks with Bulgarian officials with the aim of bolstering ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Asks Bush To End Pakistani Aggression

LD1607175989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent a message to U.S. President George Bush, concerning the intensification of aggression by Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Concerning the intensification of Pakistani aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan, the message states: As president of a state that is a guarantor of the Geneva accords and as president of a great country like the United States, I ask you as soon as possible to take the necessary measures, in light of your responsibilities, to prevent Pakistani intervention by every possible means and to play your role in the establishment of peace and tranquillity in our country and the region.

I avail myself of the opportunity to extend regards.

More on Najibullah Request

BK1607155889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, July 16 (AFP)—President Najibullah accused Pakistan on Sunday [16 July] of adding a "terroristic dimension" to the Afghan war and he appealed to U.S. President George Bush to persuade Islamabad to end interference in Afghanistan.

In a message sent to Mr. Bush Sunday, the Afghan leader cited fierce rocketing of Kabul by mujahidin rebels and a car-bomb explosion here that killed 10 people and wounded 54 on Saturday.

"Pakistan has recently given a terroristic dimension to the war by resorting to most inhuman means," Mr. Najibullah charged in the message, copies of which were given to reporters here. The message went on: "The events and incidents clearly reveal the fact that Pakistan completely ignores its commitments arising from the Geneva agreements.

"Furthermore, with each passing day, Pakistan is deliberately emphasising a military solution of the situation relating to Afghanistan and thus hinders the process of attaining a peaceful solution.

"This inhuman policy pursued by Pakistan is resulting in the death of tens of our compatriots including innocent children and women." [passage omitted]

Mr. Najibullah asked Mr. Bush to take "urgent measures to stop Pakistani interference and contribute to the establishment of peace and tranquility in our country and the region." He said that Pakistan's attitude towards the Afghan conflict portended a "vast conflict in the region" and warned that Islamabad would bear the responsibility for "any such situation."

The rocketing of Kabul by the mujahidin killed more than 30 people during the week. Saturday's car-bomb explosion in the city of 2.25 million people killed 10 civilians and wounded 54, officials said.

'Massive' Car Bomb Explodes in Kabul 15 Jul

NC1507163989 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 15 (AFP)—A massive car bomb believed to have been set by Afghan resistance guerrillas exploded in the city centre here Saturday, killing nine civilians and wounding 49, officials said.

The bomb went off around midday (0730 GMT) in a business district in a business area, damaging several nearby shops and shattering the glass doors of the Kabul Hotel, 300 metres (yards) away.

Some witnesses said 21 people were killed in the blast, but government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said only nine had died. He said 49 people were injured, some seriously, and were hospitalised.

The explosion created a crater eight feet (three meters) long and three feet (about one meter) deep in the concrete road. The glass doors of the Ariana cinema were shattered and the first floor Bamyan Restaurant extensively damaged. Several people dining at the restaurant were injured, witnesses said.

The explosion came on the last day of the four-day Islamic hajj holiday, known here as 'Id-e Qorban, when all shops on the street were shut. Casualties would have been far higher had it been a normal working day.

Witnesses said about 150 people were at the site of the blast, located near the Pashtunistan Square, a city landmark, and offices of the Finance Ministry.

"It was a terrible scene," said Mohammad Nabi Andar, a government sanitation worker who arrived at the scene five minutes after the explosion. "I could see limbs scattered all around. One man's head was severed. People were crying and running, it was pathetic," Mr. Andar added.

Police and ambulances with their sirens screaming quickly reached the scene to ferry away the dead and the wounded. Two hours later, only workers were left cleaning up shrapnel. The twisted wreckage of the car in which the bomb had been planted and the remains of two other cars destroyed in the blast still lay at the site as shopkeepers gathered on the street to assess damage done to their businesses.

"Most of the victims were just ordinary people who had done nobody any harm," said Mr. Andar, 48. "It is very tragic that innocent people should suffer like this."

No suspects were immediately cited for the explosion, but officials at the site said the attack could have been carried out by mujahideen rebels fighting to overthrow the Kabul government. Previous car bomb explosions have been attributed to the rebels, who the government has said were planning a major offensive around mid-July.

President Najibullah declared a unilateral ceasefire for the holiday beginning Wednesday, but the truce collapsed when the rebels shelled government positions at the eastern city of Jalalabad hours after its start.

BAKHTAR Notes Casualties

LD1607063289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 15 BAKHTAR—The extremists committed another crime here today by planting a bomb in a car while the pious people of Afghanistan were spending the 3rd day of 'Id al-Adha. A bomb which was planted in a car exploded around twelve o'clock noon, local time, killing eight persons including two children and injuring fifty-four others.

Likewise as a result of the explosion, a hotel, four vehicles and a motorcycle were destroyed and the neighbouring buildings damaged badly as well.

Security Tightened as Deaths Rise

BK1607085689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, July 16 (AFP)—The Afghan Government tightened security here Sunday [17 July] following a car bomb explosion in the city centre as unofficial sources said the death toll had risen to 20 with the deaths overnight of 11 of the injured. The blast left 10 people dead and 54 injured by official count, and the new figure could not immediately be confirmed. Extra police and soldiers were out on the streets, checkpoints were strengthened and vehicles searched, witnesses said. [passage omitted]

9 Missiles Fired on Kabul; Hospital Hit

LD1407174989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] At a time when our Muslim and religious compatriots are busy celebrating the second day of 'Id al-Adha, the religious festival of world Muslims, the criminal extremists fired five surface-to-surface missiles into Kabul city, proving once again their hostility toward the peace and tranquility of our compatriots.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that one of the missiles fired by the non-Mulsim extremists fell on (Antani) hospital, as a result of which one compatriot was injured and costly damage was inflicted on the hospital. Four other missiles hit nonresidential areas, which fortunately did not cause any loss of life or financial damage.

19 Rockets Hit kabul Residential Areas

LD1607173389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Today once again the extremists committed a painful crime by launching 19 surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul City's residential areas. As a result of this inhuman act, two of our compatriots were martyred and seven were wounded. The injured were transfered to a hospital and are under treatment. Also as a result of the missile attack great material losses have been inflicted on our compatriots.

Mujahidin Preparing for Major Attack on Qandahar

BK1507113989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reportedly preparing for a major attack on Qandahar. Kabul regime forces have acknowledged that the mujahidin are turning their attention to that city, along with Jalalabad, with a view to capturing it.

Kabul Notes 'Extremists' Defeat in Nangarhar

LD1607185589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The joint forces of the extremists, Pakistani military, and Saudi Wahhabis, who have been defeated on the battlefield, fired heavy weapons on some parts of Nangarhar Province yesterday in order to conceal their defeats, weakness, and incompetence.

An authoritative source of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan told BAKHTAR's military section that the enemy, which has lost its morale and is extremely frightened, yesterday fired heavy weapons at security posts and residential areas outside the city of Jalalabad. Our brave and gallant Armed Forces replied and as a result of air raids and artillery strikes, 79 of the enemy were killed and 67 others were wounded. Two ringleaders and a number of Pakistani military and Saudi Wahhabis are among those killed. Three enemy guns, seven mortars, one rocket launcher, one armored vehicle, three motor vehicles, and two radios were destroyed. Six light weapons were captured.

The source added that Pakistan-based extremists fired heavy weapons in some parts of Qandahar Province yesterday, martyring some residents and three members of the Armed Forces. Five members of the Armed Forces and seven civilians were wounded. As a result of the counter artillery and air strikes by the Armed Forces unit based in the area, 11 enemy were killed and 2 missiles and mortars were destroyed.

The source adds that the extremists subservient to Pakistan fired heavy weapons in some parts of the Paktia Province and Khowst District, but caused no loss of life.

Mujahidin Capture 'Strategic Positions' in Khowst

BK1507083589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Afghan mujahidin have captured strategic positions at (Babrak Khana) in the northwest of Khowst in Paktia Province. It blocked the supply routes by capturing these posts. However, the transport planes of Kabul regime, carrying military (?supplies) for the besieged troops landed at Khowst Airport in the night. But these planes also became the target of the mujahidin.

More on 'Strategic' Capture

BK1607134889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin, in a major joint operation, have captured five strategic points in Khowst area of Paktia Province. Among them include Kabul regime's security post and subdistrict headquarters of (Daman Duwai). The mujahidin also seized several depots of arms and ammunition. The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY says the operation is still in progress.

41 Rebels Killed in Attack on Jalalabad Suburbs

BK1507141389 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1230 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Ignoring the cease-fire announced by the supreme commander of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and in honor of our people's religious traditions, Pakistani-aided extremist groups violated it in Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar on Thursday [13 July].

According to a BAKHTAR report, a combined force of extremists, Pakistani soldiers, and armed mercenaries of Arab Wahhabis attacked the eastern suburbs of Jalalabad City, which the valiant heroes of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces repulsed with full courage and continue to repulse. As a result of these attacks and the extremists' heavy weapons fire, four Armed Forces members were martyred and seven others were wounded. In reprisal attacks, 41 enemies were killed and many others were wounded, and a large quantity of their weapons were destroyed.

According to reports, Pakistani extremist mercenaries fired heavy weapons on Qandahar Province. As a result of this, several shells fell on a hospital, killing two hospital workers and injuring three others, including a woman. Similarly, the enemies fired rockets in Gardez, killing one civilian and damaging eight houses.

Security Seizes Stinger, Blowpipe Missiles

LD1607062889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 15, BAKHTAR—Organs of the Ministry of State Security discovered and confiscated 5 ground-to-air rockets brought and mounted by extremists supported by Pakistan in the outskirts of the Parvan and Vardak Provinces during the past 3 days, July 12-14.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that five rockets including a Blowpipe, a Stinger and 3 Sterila-2 [name as received] rockets were deployed for the purposes of shooting down civilian planes in that provinces.

Egyptian 'Spy' Holds News Conference

LD1407194889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Egyptian spy and saboteur, Hesamuddin Mahmud, a resident of Cairo who entered the Republic of Afghanistan illegally with the direct cooperation of Pakistan's military intelligence in the composition of the armed extremist groups, spoke today at a news conference to foreign and domestic journalists about the destructive activities of the Saudi Wahhabi spies in the intensification of war against the Republic of Afghanistan. He was arrested some time ago during armed clashes and while fulfilling destructive activities by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in Nangarhar Province. He stressed the fact that there is currently a headquarters of mercenary spies who carry out destructive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan in Lalmay, Chaperhar sub-district, and Nangarhar Province. He added that (Abu-'Abdul Hakim), a Saudi Wahhabi is responsible for these actions. Then, foreign and domestic journalists questioned (Hesamuddin Mahmud). In reply to a question on how he came to Pakistan and then entered Afghanistan, he said: I used my passport and arrived from Cairo to Pakistan. When I arrived at the airport, a person called 'Abdullah took me to the Arab Services Office, Ansar, by car. There they asked me if I had any military training. I told them yes I had had some military training before. Then they sent me to Nangarhar Province via Towr Kham with a Kalashinkov and eight shells, together with another Arab called (?Jalil). I was placed in one of the spy posts in that region.

He added that currently a headquarters of these Arab mercenaries is located in the region of Lalmay, Nangarhar Province, where 150 of them are engaged in war against the Republic of Afghanistan and always fire onto the residential areas of Nangarhar Province with BM-12 missiles.

The foreign and domestic journalists then saw the documents and evidence which were seized during the arrest of this Egyptian spy and saboteur.

India

Spokesman on Premadasa Reply to Gandhi Message

BK1407162989 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister's special emissary, Mr B.G. Deshmukh, and the Indian delegation are returning to New Delhi from Colombo after their talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today Mr Deshmukh held two exclusive meetings with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa. Two rounds of official level talks were also held.

Referring to the latest letter of the Sri Lankan president to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the spokesman said that the four premises mentioned in the letter were not raised during the talks. They were given to the Sri Lankan official delegation by Mr Premadasa as the framework for discussion.

When asked to comment on the remarks of the Sri Lankan foreign minister, the spokesman said Mr Ranjan Wijeratane has denied some of the answers attributed to him. The Government of India is waiting for the official denial.

Deshmukh Returns to Delhi

BK1507093889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister's principal secretary, Mr B.G. Deshmukh, who went to Colombo as a special emissary, returned to New Delhi and briefed the core group on Sri Lanka. Those present at the meeting were the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh; and other senior officials. Official sources in New Delhi say that Mr Deshmukh, during his stay in Colombo, had two rounds of exclusive discussions with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa. There were also two rounds of official-level discussions between the two countries. Official sources described the discussions as exploratory in nature.

Gandhi Returns From Europe, Pakistan Trips

BK1707074989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, returned to New Delhi a short while ago at the end of his 5-day three-nation tour. Mr Gandhi visited Paris, Moscow, and Islamabad and had wide-ranging discussions with leaders of more than 30 nations on international and bilateral issues.

Talking to newsmen at Delhi airport on arrival, Mr Gandhi said he had detailed discussions on the Siachen with the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. Mr Gandhi said some progress has been made on the issue. He said that the army chiefs of both India and Pakistan will be meeting again next month and discuss the matter.

On terrorism, Mr Gandhi said some specific steps have been taken by the Pakistan Government, but unfortunately the flow of terrorists from across the border still continues.

Several questions were asked about the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka and treaties with Nepal. Mr Gandhi said he had proposed discussions with the Sri Lankan Government in his communication to the president of Sri Lanka, but unfortunately response from the Sri Lankan leader is not positive. Mr Gandhi said devolution of power in the northeastern region of Sri Lanka is a part of India-Sri Lankan agreement, but unfortunately it has not taken place as promised.

On Nepal, Mr Gandhi said India is prepared to give the most favored nation treatment to Nepal at once, but it will be only disadvantageous for Nepal as it has been receiving more at present from India.

Mr Gandhi was received at the airport by his Cabinet colleagues, members of parliament, and senior government officials.

Comments on Sri Lanka Situation

BK1707093089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 17 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Monday [17 July] the Sri Lankan Government was moving in a dangerous direction and backing out of contractual obligations over the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

Speaking to journalists on his return from a 20-hour visit to Pakistan, the premier also accused Colombo of "very sloppy" handling of the issue.

"Now there seems to be a tendency on the part of Sri Lanka to back out from its contractual obligations. This is a dangerous direction the Sri Lanka Government is taking and I hope they realise the gravity of the situation", he said.

Observers saw the comments as some of the most critical yet by Mr. Gandhi of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who on June 1 called for the complete withdrawal of India's 45,000 troops from the island by July 29.

Mr. Gandhi, who has flatly rejected the unilateral pull-out call and said the two sides must sit down together and draw up a timetable for phased withdrawal of the Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF), called Mr. Premadasa's refusal to do so regrettable.

Questioned on a subsequent statement by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne that the Indian forces could be forcibly evicted if New Delhi ignored the deadline, Mr. Gandhi said, "I hope better sense will prevail."

Devolution of powers to minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east was agreed in the 1987 peace accord under which Indian troops were sent to the island, he said. He said that at the time of the signing of the agreement two years ago the Tamils had not been willing to sign without the Indian Government acting as a guarantor. Had the troops not been deployed Sri Lanka would have "disintegrated", Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi said that last week India had been told that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the strongest Tamil separatist group which repudiated the 1987 peace pact, had promised a unilateral ceasefire.

The Tigers, who are still waging a violent bush war against the IPKF, have since April been engaged in peace talks with Mr. Premadasa.

The gunning down of two moderate Tamil political leaders in Colombo last Thursday clearly indicated the way the minds of the LTTE were working, Mr. Gandhi said.

(Tamil sources in Madras said Monday that Sri Lankan police had identified the killers of Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leaders Appapilai Amirthalingam and V. G. Yogeswaran as prominent members of the LTTE.)

Mr. Gandhi said he did not find time in Islamabad to talk to B.G. Deshmukh, his principal secretary whom he had sent to Colombo Wednesday for talks with Mr. Premadasa and other top Sri Lankan officials. Mr. Deshmukh, who carried a letter from Mr. Gandhi to the Sri Lankan leader, would meet with him later in the day, Mr. Gandhi said.

Gandhi Expresses 'Shock' at Tamil Leaders' Murder

BK1507160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister has expressed deep shock at the brutal killing of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders. In separate condolence messages to the wives of the two deceased leaders, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said those who had committed this dastardly act stand condemned.

Recalling his meetings with Mr Amirthalingam, the prime minister said he was impressed by the TULF leader's abiding faith in democratic institutions and commitment toward Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Describing Mr Yogeswaran as a courageous and dedicated champion of the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils, Mr Gandhi said the departed leader had a commitment for securing rights of the Tamils in the island republic.

External Affairs Minister Condemns Killings

BK1407155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Excerpt] There has been wide condemnation of the dastardly assassination of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders [in Colombo]. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said in Paris today that the killings of the TULF leaders only shows that security and safety of Tamils have become a question mark in the capital of Sri Lanka itself, leave alone the Northeastern Province. He described the killings as brutal and said the two leaders were great patriots. Both of them fought for the legitimate rights of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Expressing shock at the brutal killings, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said this tragic act will only complicate the very delicate situation in Sri Lanka.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that the assassination of the TULF leaders by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] only confirms the validity of what the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said in his message to president Premadasa on the 30th of last month. The spokesman added that such acts by the LTTE confirm India's apprehensions that they have not renounced violence.

Informed sources say that while the Sri Lankan Government was holding talks with the LTTE, they allowed the LTTE to roam about in Colombo freely with their weapons. [passage omitted].

Armed Forces Special Powers Act Imposed in Assam

BK1607075389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The Assam government has imposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act of 1958 in the entire Kokrajhar District where violent activities continue unabated following the Bodo agitation. Official sources say the act empowers the state government to use armed forces as and when required to control disturbances in the district.

10 Persons Injured in Bomb Explosion in Punjab

BK1707090589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] In Punjab, 10 persons were injured when a powerful bomb exploded in a shop near the clock tower in Ludhiana early this morning. The injured included seven members of the security personnel. They were admitted to the hospital. The security forces have cordoned off the area.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1407125289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] On the auspicious occasion of the blessed feast of Qorban, the Muslim people of our country attended the Friday prayers today in great numbers. While observing the great Islamic festival, they also took part in the Mohammadan rites of Friday prayers.

In Tehran, meanwhile, the political-religious Friday prayers were held at Tehran University and the adjacent streets under the leadership of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. The mass of God-seeking ummah of Tehran were joined by provincial compatriots, as well as a large number of Muslim foreign guests who came to participate in the rites of the 40th day of the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be in paradise, at the Friday prayers in Tehran.

Appearing for the first time at the Friday prayers since the tragic demise of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred in the first sermon to the 40 days since the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be in paradise, as a great loss to the Iranian nation. Explaining part of the political-religious life of the imam of the ummah he said: The revival of Islam, the restoration of the spirit of greatness among the Muslims, endowing the Muslims with a feeling of Islamic understanding, elimination of one of the most reactionary and filthiest and most dependent regime of the region—that is, the overthrow of the monarchy in Iran—as well as setting up a government on the basis of Islam, the creation of an Islamic uprising in the world, the new look [negaresh] at Shi'a jurisprudence, and the revival of pride and self-reliance among the Iranian nation are among the achievements of the blessed life of our dear imam.

His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i added: The imam's personal characteristics were not the only factors bringing about his success. Indeed, the imam's successes were well above his individual characteristics. These stemmed from his purity, his reliance on God, and his way of applying himself to his obligations. By repeated references to these facts we must follow one objective: learning from the imam.

In his second sermon the leader of the Islamic Revolution thanked the Assembly of Experts for their good opinion of him and also for having elected him to the leadership. He also thanked the Iranian nation for mourning for 40 days the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be in paradise, as well as for their vow of allegiance. He also thanked the brothers from other countries for their expression of sympathy with the Iranian nation and for having cherished the memory of Islam's great leader.

He then addressed the Iranian nation, saying: Your presence on the scene and your unity of word at this sensitive moment has endowed the greatest victory to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the fact that Islam's enemies had pinned their eyes on the time when the imam would no longer be living—a hope which was dashed through the movement of the people, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i said: We have a long way ahead of us for construction of the country, for continuation of the imam's path, for bringing this divine revolution to its destination, and for achieving its targets and ideals. Most certainly our enemies are not prepared to abandon their hostility to Islam and the Islamic Republic.

Stressing the point that we should remove the obstacles to construction in order to rebuild our country, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Islam and the Islamic Republic must prove that they can build Iran; that is, the art of Islam. The people must remove the obstacles through unity and purity of faith and rebuild the country. This would be the great victory of the Iranian nation.

He said: You the nation must know that in administration of domestic affairs and in foreign policy we follow Islamic principles. We will tread the path which the imam charted most precisely. You should know that your presence on the scene will make every impossibility a possibility.

In conclusion of his remarks the leader of the Islamic revolution offered his congratulations to all prayer-givers, the Iranian nation, and the world Muslims on the occasion of the blessed feast of Qorban. He then said: It was God's will that the end of the 40 days of mourning for our dear imam had to coincide with the feast of Qorban. Certainly that great sorrow will follow us for many years. But for the sake of the imam we must begin our endeavors and indeed the people must be ready for constructive work.

Second Sermon

LD1407164589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1138 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Second Friday Prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 14 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. In my second sermon I would like us to cast a brief glance at the future. First, I would like to thank the people's chosen experts [Assembly of Experts] for having placed their trust in me, a mere humble servant, and for having entrusted me with such a heavy and huge responsibility. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers and sisters. Dear great Iranian nation. Your presence, your gathering, and your unanimity of word, in such a sensitive juncture, has granted the greatest of victories to the Islamic revolution. As we have repeatedly mentioned, our enemies were looking forward optimistically to this juncture, or in other words to the demise of the imam. Thanks be to God, with your decisive action, the enemy's spell was broken, and their vain dreams and illusions shattered. However, I would like to warn brothers and sisters throughout the country that we still have a long path ahead of us for the reconstruction of the country, for the continuation of our dear imam's line, for attaining the goals of this divine revolution, and for the realization of the hopes, aspirations and desires of this great revolution, and its imam and leader. [passage omitted]

In respect to the divine and genuine criteria, you are stronger than all your enemies. There is no doubt about that. This is of course based on genuine criteria, which means abstinence from ostentations, and not going by appearences. By appearances I mean those riches which are in the hands of the world powers, their propoganda apparatus, and their advanced weaponry. These are all appearances. If all these appearances were to bring about real victory for the enemies against us, we could not exist in the world. The Islamic Republic would be nothing other than a myth. As you see, it is not such. [crowd chants in support] [passage omitted]

Our power and strength will remain only for as long as we remain united, a united nation. We will lose our strength if we become entangled in discord, schism, various differences of opinion, skirmishes, and power struggles. Discord will divest a nation of its life, integrity and strength. The strength remains as long as you maintain this unanimity of word. We should brace ourselves for action. We no longer have a war. We do not have a military war any more. However, we are involved in a war with the obstacles in the path of construction. We should construct our country, and this is a tremendous task. There are obstacles in the path, which we should remove. These obstacles—lethargy, disorder, sedition, lack of the necessary facilites, or what ever else—should be removed. We must build Iran; Islam and the Islamic Republic must demonstrate that it can build Iran in such a way that it is stronger than at any time in the course of Iranian history. This is the art of Islam. We possess the talent, and we can do it. People! Brace yourselves! [passage omitted]

I have already given a message on the occassion of the 40th day of Imam Khomeyni's demise, which will be broadcast. I have mentioned the same issues in that message, hence, I do not want to elaborate. However, you should know that whether in the internal management of the country, or in its foreign relations, we adhere to the Islamic and revolutionary tenets, and will methodically follow the same line as that of the imam's. [crowd chants in support: Death to America, Death to Israel, Death to Saudi Arabia] You should know that with your presence on the scene, anything thought to be impossible will become possible. Anything unmanageable will become manageable.

I would like to congratulate all you dear faithful brothers and sisters, the entire Iranian nation, the entire Muslim world on the occasion of the feast of sacrifice [Id-e Qorban]. It is divine providence that the end of the Iranian nations' 40 days of mourning should coincide with the feast of sacrifice. This was a vivid glance at the future. Of course, the imam's memory will forever remain in our hearts. We will forever mourn the imam's loss in our hearts. However, as mentioned yesterday by the dear offspring and the valuable memento of our great leader, Hojjat-ol Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa [Ahmad Khomeyni] at the shrine of his honorable father, who graciously addressed and called on you people to note that the mourning period ended on the 40th day, and that the people should take off their black clothes and put on their working clothes. [passage omitted]

Without doubt our great sorrow will accompany us for many years. But, dear imam, as from this day—this day which is that of the feast of sacrifice—we begin our lives, our endeavors for your sake, in your memory, and because this is what you would have wished, and what you desired and called for. Dear brothers and sisters! Let piety be your motto, as our imam was the symbol of piety, virtue, and vigilance. [passage omitted]

President's Message on 40th Mourning Day

LD1407190389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Message to the nation from 'Ali Khamene'i on the conclusion of 40 days of official mourning; issued on 14 July—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Who does not know our beloved Khomeyni? Who does not know of his greatness? My words are not capable of describing that sublime truth and that precious pearl. My weak pen is too inadequate to try to portray the features of that heavenly character. It would be better if I put down my pen and once again express my condolences for this great and heartrending calamity and this unforgettable sorrow to his holiness, the remnant of God, may our soul be sacrificed for the dust of his feet, and his esteemed household, especially his dear and only son and the most beloved apple of his eyes, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa, and to the families of martyrs, POWs, the disabled, the missing-in-action, and to the entire Iranian nation and the great Islamic ummah. As a reminder I wish to raise a few issues with the dear nation.

First, my pen and tongue are incapable of expressing my thanks to the entire nation for the sake of their sincere and devoted mourning during 40 days of official mourning. You, great Iranian nation, have registered in history the lesson of an eternal faithfulness and sincerity which could be expected from an appreciative nation toward their imam and toward a great savior and reformer. You gave hope to the friends of the Islamic Republic and poured poison of despair and despondency in the mouth of the enemies. You strengthened the foundations of an Islamic government, and you shook the hearts of the opponents. You made the angels of God sing the praises of your faith and sincerity, and you made the evil lives of the satans targets for the darts of your vengeful wrath. May God's grace and the satisfaction of the great remnant of God, may our souls be a sacrifice unto him, and the heavenly prayers of our dear imam be with you.

Second, the conclusion of the official mouring period does not mean an end to the sorrow and grief of the Iranian nation, an end to mourning for that great loss. The eternal memory of our great imam, both the sweet memories from his blessed life and the unendurable sorrow for his loss, will always be with us. Nonetheless, I, after expressing my thanks once again and congratulations for the auspicious 'Id al-Adha—which once again rejuvenates the sad memory of deprivation from hajj while raising the loud voice of our nation in disavowal of the arrogant infidels and their reactionary agents—urge all the Iranian nation to take off our mourning clothing and put on the clothing of work, effort, endeavor, and activity, thereby moving toward the imam's objectives with a new momentum and ability, which is the crystallization of God's blessing on our imam.

Third, the sorrow of losing our imam brought immense sorrow to our hearts and burned with it many impurities. It brought us closer together, thawing the frosts of acrimony, melting the fences of dualities, bringing about an unprecedented unity of expression. The duty of all individuals of the nation, in particular the authors and orators and especially those who use pubic platforms, is that they should pay tribute to this public unity, while encouraging everyone to guard it.

True unity means the coming together of people with different tastes and methods around the axis of Islam, the imam's line, and velayat-e faqih [the rule of the jurisconsult, the position endowed on Khomeyni and now on Khamene'i]. This is the same holding fast to the rope of God [reference to a Koranic verse] which has been enjoined upon all Muslims. This is the same most great name [God is believed to have 99 names, including a secret most great name] which unites all knots, removes all obstacles, and defeats all the satans. All words or actions by anybody which may lead to disunity and despondency will be treason against the imam and Islam.

I call upon the honorable deputies of the Islamic consultative Assembly, esteemed Friday imams, religious orators, and mass media to draw the attention of all to this revolutionary duty. Of course, the main guarantee for this would be all members of the Hezbollahi nation, who, by observing any violation from this divine duty, are duty-bound to forbid people from doing evil [an Islamic principle] and to turn away from those who violate this principle.

Fourth, on the eve of the constitution referendum and the eve of the presidential elections, I request the entire nation to take part in these two activities and once again deliver a mighty blow to the windbags and opponents and bring despair to the enemies. The election of the most qualified person who enjoys piety and capability to the important post of president, who has extensive powers with regard to the administration of the country according to the new constitution, is a religious, rational, and revolutionary duty; any slackening in this matter or not going to the polls would result in irreparable damages. Your presence will strengthen the foundations of the revolution, will give the future managers of the country strength and motivation for work, and will guarantee the future.

God willing, I will go to the polls on 28 July and vote for the amendments in the constitution and for the president. I also expect the entire dear nation to do the same.

Fifth, Islamic rituals and mosques and Friday prayers and mourning are some of the issues which have had a significant role in the success of the revolution and its continuation. Muslim nations from all over the world, having seen the Iranian nation's experience, show a particular interest in mosques and religious rituals. The Palestinian uprising and other uprisings nowadays gain their power and strength from mosques and Friday and congregational prayers. It is appropriate that the Iranian nation always remember the role of these rituals. I recommend to all people, in particular young people, to fill the mosques and present themselves at Friday and congregational prayers and to maintain the warm atmosphere of mourning for the lord of the martyrs, Hoseyn ibn-e 'Ali, peace be upon him [the third shi'a imam]. Of course, the content and the real meaning of these rituals and ceremonies should be appropriately maintained and the spirituality, regard, and learning should be the ruling factor over them. Their Excellencies Friday and congregational imams and religious speakers should also try as much as possible to make these rituals more fruitful and more full of content and keep these spiritual centers warm.

Sixth, at this stage of the revolution, the main goal is to build a model country in which financial security, together with social justice, revolutionary spirit and hope, is safeguarded by Islamic moral values. If any of these four main pillars becomes weak or ignored, the continuation of the revolution and its passing through various stages will not be possible.

Financial security does not mean the propagation of the consumption spirit that is itself one of the ugly presents of the Western culture. It means, however, that the country reach an accepted limit in cultivation and improvements, mining and the use of natural resources, preparation of the society's health and hygiene, economic improvements, and the improvement of trade and production, relying on the human forces in the country. As science and knowledge, research and experience become accessible to the general public the signs of poverty and underdevelopment will be eliminated.

Social justice means that the wide gap between various strata and unjust wealth, and deprivation are eliminated and that the oppressed and those without shoes, who are always the most reliable and loyal supporters of the revolution, see and feel that there is a serious and real move toward the elimination of deprivation. Social justice means that as the result of necessary laws and through the establishment of judicial security in the country, the system of oppression and violation of the rights of the oppressed people and violaton of the legitimate boundaries of people's lives may be eliminated; that everyone feels that in the face of tyranny and violation he can turn to a safe haven; and that everyone knows that as the result of his efforts and labor he will be able to provide a satisfactory life for himself.

Revolutionary spirit and hope means that the goal of achieving a comfortable and decent life will not lead society and officials towards compromise and surrender in the face of the bullying of world powers nor toward neglecting the conspiracies of world arrogance and paying no attention to the global message of the revolution. The day when, God forbid, the Islamic Republic regards comfort and prosperity as its main goal and in the path of achieving them is ready to neglect the revolutionary and global aspirations, forgetting the global message of the revolution, that will be the day of decadence and the elimination of all hope. May God never bring about such a day. Undoubtedly the Iranian nation, for sake of defending the beloved Islam and its national independence, is ready to sacrifice everything it has.

Enjoying Islamic moral principles means that the spirit of morality, piety, detachment, fortitude; refraining from forbidden passions; distancing oneself from avarice, greed, materialism, injustice, and seeking wealth, and turning toward sincerity, purity, and godliness, and other moral attributes will become widespread in the society, and will be regarded as basic values. It is on the basis of these four main pillars that the growing Islamic society will be formed, will be strengthened and consolidated, and talents will flower, and the fountains of goodness and rectitude will overflow and when Islamic society will become an attractive model for all other societies.

Seventh, As much as the Iranian nation is eager to build the country and society, to the same extent its enemies are afraid of such efforts. They know that the success of the Iranian nation in building a properous society, endowed with material and spiritual riches, would encourage other nations to follow this same path. That means total destruction of the colonial and arrogant designs of the world powers. It is here that the long series of plots by arrogance against the Islamic Republic begins. In the future, as in the past, plots will continue. Though the possibility of a military attack seems weak, political plots such as rumormongering and efforts to dishearten the people, as well as psychological warfare and various forms of obstructionism, are possible. Our nation must, with awareness and good spirits, frustrate every plot. In particular, it must watch out for the enemy's infiltrators, rumormongers, and overt or covert agents.

Eighth, various strata of society, especially the effective and vital strata, must know of the specific duties that at this time are upon their shoulders—and so so with great precision. Once learning of their duties, they must carry them out as if they are praying for God.

Students and pupils must couple their duty in learning sciences with that of acquiring skills and experience. As befits them, they must serve as pioneers of revolutionary movements toward attaining the lofty ideals of Islam and in confrontation with the plots of the global arrogance and of the U.S.-Zionism-reactionary triangle.

University teachers and managers of research and educational centers must couple their efforts to improve the level of knowledge and research, as a principal basis of the country's development, with Islamization of the educational environment as well as eradication of the bad effects of the imported culture. They must try to strengthen the religious and political knowledge of the students.

Farmers and rural people must appreciate the importance of their efforts which, as the most basic step in attaining self- sufficiency, amounts to providing foodstuffs. They must aim at increasing the level of production and improving quality. They must decrease the country's dependence on imported food to nothing.

The tradesmen and shopkeepers must show thrift and trust; they must make do with lower profits. They must keep away from those who use un-Islamic ways to maximize their profits to bring pressure on the people. They must side with the government and judiciary to confront the profiteers.

Artists must place the language of art at the service of the revolution and Islam, which are the dearest capital of the people. They must use that god-sent gift to improve the people's thoughts. They must liberate art from dilution with the harmful manifestations of alien culture.

Writers and journalists must regard the guidance of the society and efforts to raise the level of awareness as their great duty. They must raise the main issues of the domestic and foreign scenes to increase the knowledge of society; they must also expose the deceptions of the international domineering regime. They must refrain from raising divisive and disheartening issues.

The Islamic Republic Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], which are the armed hands of the nation to defend the revolution and the country's borders, must increase their preparedness from the point of view of training, equipment, organization and discipline. They must always be two fraternal organizations that complement each other. The volunteers, who were always praised by our dear imam who always expressed his satisfaction, must continue under the supervision and management of the IRGC to strengthen their organization more than ever before.

The revolutionary organs, which since the beginning played an effective role in guarding the fruits of the revolution, including those which serve as productive, service, and propaganda units, and the Islamic socities which are everywhere standard bearers of revolutionary values must couple the revolutionary spirit with precise order and discipline, as well as with greatness of spirit. They must keep alive the ways of defending the revolution without deviating from their duties.

The officials of the regime, whether in the executive power or in the judiciary, must regard themselves as the epitome of wisdom, trust, and service to the regime. They must serve the people honestly and compassionately. They must respect the law and be the best examples of honesty and purity. They must know that serving this self-sacrificing people is a great divine service and an eternal source of pride.

Ninth, women played one of the most brilliant and most prominent roles in the victory and the continuation of the revolution and in confronting major events in the past 10 years. Our late, illustrious imam, in view of this sensitive role, repeatedly praised the women of the Islamic Republic and left behind for future generations valuable reminders of his judgment regarding this issue.

Tenth, the last point is about reconstruction. I decisively declare to the dear nation that today the importance of reconstruction is no less important than the 8-year war. In the same way that people's endeavors, determination, and participation in the war played a major and effective role, today too people's presence, cooperation, and participation can play a major role in reconstruction. The enemies will engage in obstructionism and hostility toward reconstruction work in the same way that they did in the issue of the war. People's revolutionary behavior, however, will be able to foil the enemies' conspiracies. In the work of reconstruction, the presence and active participation of revolutionary forces will certainly be able to make difficult tasks easy and can reduce long periods to short periods. Love and sincerity will accomplish acts which are sometimes impossible through ordinary effort. It is befitting for government officials to organize revolutionary and popular forces and direct people's labor, capital, and innovation, to bring the issue of reconstruction to the stage of implementation; and to remove the obstacles from the path of intellectual, financial, and physical participation of the people.

Finally, once again, on the occasion of the 40th day after the demise of our illustrious and esteemed imam and at the end of the 40-day long general mourning, I offer my condolences to the dear nation and I beseech the success, patience, and recompense for all. I also express my congratulations to the entire nation on the occasion of the blessed 'id al-Adha. While expressing my thanks to various groups and individuals and the officials of government departments and revolutionary organizations who with their messages have expressed their affection and sincerity to me, I ask all to refrain from sending any more messages of condolence and congratulations. I also strongly ask the newspapers, while thanking them, not to publish any more messages of condolences and congratulations addressed to me, from tomorrow.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i

[Dated] 14 July, 1989

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Outlines 4-Year Program

LD1607093489 Tehran IRNA in English
0925 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Majlis Speaker and acting Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbaı Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is most likely to win the July 28 presidential contest, in an interview outlined his programs for the next four years.

He also said in the interview published in Sunday's issue of the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, that he and Ayatollah Khamene'i were originally opposed to the election of one individual as the leader and favored a leadership council instead. He said in a meeting the country's top decision-makers had convened in Jamaran hours before the imam's passing away (on June 3), they had agreed that a leadership council should come to power.

"We first agreed that a 3-man leadership council be temporarily formed to run the affairs until the constitutional amendments take place. Ayatollah Khamene'i, of course, was one of them... Some gentlemen also proposed Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader, but the main theme of the discussion was to form a leadership council. The only difference was in the number of its members, three or five.

"Then we thought there is a problem in decision-making. The session all of a sudden turned to the idea that an individual should become the leader. Ayatollah Khamene'i and I were against it. Voting took place but we two abstained. The result of the voting was positive. Ayatollah Khamene'i took the floor again and spoke in opposition. But we had no choice since others had voted for a single person and there was no one more suitable than Ayatollah Khamene'i. It was then that I also decided to follow suit."

Turning to foreign policy issues, he said "We will continue to stick to the principle of 'Neither East, nor West', that is we will not undergo domination. We will under no circumstances let the country and the revolution be influenced by the demands of the East and the West.

"We will also not seek hegemonism...We do not want to strain relations with the countries which would like to have healthy ties with us. We believe peace and security should rule the region in order to make construction possible and should also strip foreign powers of pretexts for increased presence in the region due to insecurity and encounters."

The Majlis speaker said Islam will remain the main guide in solving the country's problems. "We will say our words to the world and its Muslims and this does not mean interference in the affairs of others. Among the duties the revolution has put on our shoulder is to convey the divine message."

Turning to internal issues, he said "We need quantitative and qualitative promotion in higher education studies. We particularly suffer from acute shortage of researchers. Our quantitative condition is not good and there are many talents being wasted due to the poor level of education."

In the economic section, he referred to some long-term and infrastructural plans which he said should be implemented in the five-year plan.

Among his "serious works" he mentoned the control of energies such as water which he said were being wasted in the country, and further exploitation of gas as the best and richest source of energy.

To provide enough energy to run the economy, to expand the nationwide railway network as the "best means of transportation," more emphasis on industries such as steel, petrochemicals, and agriculture as the "best means to achieve independence," were among other long-term plans cited by the speaker.

Among short-term works, he said he would try to increase the country's production capacity. "About 30-40 percent of the country's industries are presently active due to shortage of materials, energy, or parts," he said.

Regarding peace with Iraq, the Majlis speaker said the decision had been taken by the late imam. "The imam was very serious (in his decision for peace). On the last days (before the war came to a halt in August) the Iraqis had started a new aggression. Many forces went to the fronts on the orders of the imam. We were ready for a big offensive. Mr. Khamene'i was in the battlefield from where he telephoned and asked for permission from the imam to launch an offensive. I told him that the imam did not agree. He later called Mr. Ahmad (the imam's son) asking him to talk to the imam but the imam disagreed again.

"Thus we seriously entered the stage of peace and we will continue this policy. But we are one side of the issue and think that the enemies may take our quest for peace as a weakness. Therefore, we have no choice but to keep ourselves prepared...

"Regarding the military industries in particular, we are putting much pressure to manufacture our own tools and have made good progress in this regard.

"Our policy is to be prepared for defense and at the same time work for peace, including the implementation of the Resolution (598). After our visit to the Soviet Union and the talks we held there, we have now more means to achieve peace."

On Iraq-Iran peace talks, he said Iran had not set a date for a new round of negotations "because the talks are still immature."

Four rounds of talks have been held between the two countries since a ceasefire went into effect on August 20, 1988 but no substantial progress has been made due to Baghdad's refusal to withdraw its forces form 2,600 sq. kms of Iranian territory still under Iraqi occupation. This is against the call of the Security Council Resolution 598 urging both sides to immediately retreat to the international boundaries.

"We would not like to begin a new round which would yield no result. But Dr. Velayati (the foreign minister) said after his recent talks that at least the (UN) secretary general and those who were mediating, were more serious this time. But still it is early to judge."

Velayati held private talks with UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar when he was in Geneva earlier this month to address a disarmament conference.

Asked if he preferred a new round of peace talks be held after the July 28 presidential elections, he said the two issues were not related to each other. "Our policy will not change after the elections. We will do so whenever the ground is suitable."

The second part of the interview conducted last Thursday, will appear in the next issue of the paper.

Kurdish-Iranian Meeting in Vienna Attacked

LD1407115289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Following the appearance of differences between the Qasemlu wing of the Kurdish Democratic Party and the Iraqi Government about the threats to Kurdish towns and the massacre and forced evacuation of Iraqi Kurds, Qasemlu suggested discussions in Vienna between himself and an envoy from Iran about the granting of a guarantee of safety.

During these discussions yesterday, the venue of the meeting between the envoy of the Islamic Republic and the delegation from the Kurdish Democratic Party led by Qasemlu was attacked and a number of those present were killed or wounded. So far, the identity of the assailants or their motive for murder has not been made clear.

Qasemlu Killed; Mohtashemi Comments

LD1507184389 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15 IRNA—The interior minister today said that Iraq was probably behind a terrorist attack in Vienna Thursday night which led to the death of leader of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] Abdulrahman Qasemlu and wounding of an Iranian representative.

"The meeting (between Qasemlu and the Iranian representative) focused on exploring ways for repentant KDP members to return to Iran and receive pardon writs," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi told a press conference here.

"But the enemy which is against peace and tranquility in the region, attacked the venue of the negotiations and murdered some people."

Austria Urged To Investigate

LD1607131989 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today expressed regret that Austria has not yet taken any measures to hunt those responsible for Thursday's terrorist attack in Vienna which led to the killing of three Kurds and wounding of an Iranian diplomat.

In a meeting with Austrian Charge D'Affaires Arnold Riedel here, the Foreign Ministry's Director-General for Western Europe Manuchehr Mottaki regretted that "the Austrian Government has not yet taken any measure to pursue the issue."

Mottaki also called on the Vienna government to immediately identify the culprits and allow representatives of the Iranian Embassy to meet the wounded diplomat.

In Thursday's attack, leader of the outlawed Kurdish democratic party Abdulrahman Qasemlu and two other Kurds were gunned down and the Iranian diplomat who was negotiating with them was wounded.

The Austrian charge d'affaires promised to follow up the issue immediately and to inform Iran of its results.

Iranian Kurds Blame Tehran

AU1707112389 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 17 Jul 89 p 4

[Sissy Danninger report: "Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan Blames Tehran For Murders"]

[Excerpt] Dr Sadiq Sharafandi, former deputy of the murdered Abdorrahman Qasemlu, has been designated Qasemlu's successor. He studied in France and was a professor in Tehran.

According to a spokesman, the party [Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan] still blames Iran for the murder of the two top politicians and also thinks that the injured Persian negotiator was an accomplice. In addition to the three Kurds, at least three Iranian representatives had participated in the meeting, it was stated.

A party spokesman considers it unlikely that followers of Mas'ud Barzani, president of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq, were involved in the assassination. "So far, we have not heard anything about possible negotiations with Iran," the spokesman stated. "However, it has to be pointed out that the principle of negotiations to solve the Kurdistan question peacefully has always been the defined line of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan. Therefore, Secretary General Qasemlu and foreign representative Qaderiazar were authorized to make full use of any opportunity." [passage omitted]

Further Report

AU1707073889 Paris AFP in English 0233 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, July 17 (AFP)—The Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPIK) accused Iran on Sunday of responsibility for the killing of its leader Abdorrahman Qasemlu in Vienna on Thursday.

Mr. Qasemlu was shot dead, together with two other DPIK leaders, in an apartment in the Austrian capital, while a fourth man, an Iranian, was wounded.

A statement issued here by the DPIK said "responsibility for the massacre belongs to the regime of the Islamic Republic".

Jalal Talebani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan had earlier accused Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn of being behind the murders in a statement in Vienna.

The Iranian Government had also accused the Iraqi Government of having a hand in the murders, although the Iranian opposition People's Mojahedin, based in Iraq, has accused Tehran.

The DPIK said Mr. Qasemlu, 58, together with the two other dead men, 'Abdollah Qaderiazar and Fadel Rasul, had been due to meet envoys of the Iranian Government, at the latter's request, "with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem in Iran".

Two of the Iranian negotiators have been arrested by Austrian police, DPIK said, naming one of them as djafari Saharooodi, the personal envoy of Iranian parliamentary speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. However the Austrian authorities do not yet have sufficient evidence to express an opinion on the killings, the Kurdish nationalist organisation said.

Mr. Saharudi was wounded during the attack in Vienna and is still in hospital there.

Mr. Qasemlu is to be buried in the Pere Lachaise cemetery here on Thursday, the DPIK announced.

The nationalist leader had devoted his life to the Kurdish cause since the age of 16, the organisation said. His death is "an immense loss to the peoples of Iran and to the entire Kurdish nation", it added.

However, DPIK said, "the Kurds' fight for their legitimate rights in a democratic Iran will continue with the same determination".

Paper Warns of U.S. 'Conspiracy' in Afghanistan

LD1507120789 Tehran IRNA in English
1150 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—One of the most important positive factors in the recent warming up of Iran-Soviet ties is their near identical position on solving the Afghan crisis and Iran-Iraq war, a commentary in KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said Saturday.

It predicted that "a settlement of these issues will have a direct effect on Moscow's future relations with the entire region and bring about the much-desired stability to improve the level of understanding between the eastern superpower and regional peoples, the Afghan Mujahidin included."

The paper underlined the acknowledgement of "Afghanistan's Islamic identity" by the Soviet leadership specified in a joint communique released after the Iranian Majlis speaker's visit to the neighbouring country.

It claimed that contrary to all the poisonous propaganda of the Western media following the new Tehran-Moscow ties, "the Afghan masses also are the beneficiaries of what was decided in the Soviet capital last month."

Now, the commentary added, it is totally up to the mujahidin leaders and the people of Afghanistan to identify the value of the occasion, abandon their differences and jointly work for a strong and free Afghanistan.

"Based on the Moscow agreement the Muslim insurgents are now in a much better position to thrash out a deal with the Soviets without having anything to compromise."

The paper further warned of a new conspiracy by the West, the U.S. in particular, and its agents in Afghanistan trying to impose the idea that "Tehran might have compromised its earlier stance on Afghanistan to get closer to the Soviet position."

The joint communique "is enough to prove that the Islamic Republic's official position on Afghanistan is not negotiable and it is the USSR which has finally accepted realities and agreed that only the Afghans should decide the destiny of their country."

Gorbachev's success in his reforms and abandoning Kremlin's earlier thinking about the future of the impoverished Muslim country was another reason for the West's twisted version of events, it said.

It added Moscow's possible success in its efforts to help implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 is another reason the West is worried.

"Lasting peace in the oil-rich Persian Gulf will pave the way for Arab capitals to improve their quality of relations with the USSR," the paper asserted and added that "suspicions about Soviet intentions in the region gradually started to diminish when the world learnt about Islamic Iran's decision to rebuild with Soviet assistance."

"A comprehensive settlement to the Afghan and Persian Gulf conflicts will further confirm the new and rational thinking of Soviet leaders," KAYHAN INTL concluded.

Delegation Departs for Moscow Gas Exports Talks

LD1707071789 Tehran IRNA in English
0700 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by Deputy Economic and Financial Affairs Minister 'Ali Majedi left here for Moscow Sunday.

During a week-long stay, the delegation will review agreements made during Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to the Soviet Union.

Details of Iran's gas exports to the Soviet Union next year at a rate of two to three billion cubic meters a year and relevant projects will be among topics of discussion.

After final approval, the gas deal is to be signed in Tehran, expected in the near future.

The visit is made at the invitation of Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations V. Mordvinov.

Paper on U.S.-Installed 'Idols' in Mecca

LD1507063289 Tehran IRNA in English
0620 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—World Muslims should cleanse Mecca of U.S.-installed "present day idols" an Iranian daily has stressed and blamed Riyadh for Monday's bomb blasts in the holy city.

"Even a child could understand that the two bombs were planted near Ka'ba by Saudi security agents", KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in its editorial Saturday.

The Saudi regime says the bomb explosions were an act of terrorism and some unknown faction in Lebanon has claimed responsibility for them.

"The security measures at all the embarkation points in Hejaz are so tight that it is not possible for a pilgrim to smuggle even a pocket book of prayers.

"How then can one smuggle bombs into the country and plant them on the streets of Mecca which are also under 24-hour surveillance by the Saudi security forces."

The paper, confirming the view of Iranian officials, added:

"This criminal act was committed by the Saudis themselves for silencing the cries of 'antipathy towards pagans' and justifying the creation of a police state over the holy shrines."

Mohtashemi Assails Saudis at Friday Prayers

LD1407154589 Tehran IRNA in English
1534 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—It is time that the Al Sa'ud clan was put on trial for the numerous crimes it has perpetrated and continues to perpetrate against Islam and world Muslims, said Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi today.

"A court should investigate the dark record of the heirs of Abu Jahal and Abu Lahab, who spread panic among pilgrims, bar Muslims from the Hajj, stir up sedition worldwide and collaborate with Zionists and global arrogance," he said.

The Arab pagans Abu Jahal and Abu Lahab were the chief enemies of Islam and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], and like the present rulers of the Hijaz spared no mischief to stop the spread of the divine message.

In his pre-sermon speech at the Friday prayer, Mohtashemi was referring to the latest crime of the ruling Wahhabis, who this year yet again violated the sanctity of the Hajj by triggering two bomb blasts near the sacred mosque.

Monday night's blasts in Mecca which claimed the life of a 'guest of God' from Pakistan and injured several others, further proved the incompetency of the upstart Saudis to administer the Haramayn Sharifayn [two holy sanctuaries].

Of Jewish origin, the Wahhabi clan had between the two world wars seized with British help, the Hijaz as well as the oil rich eastern coast of Arabia, reducing the local Muslims both Sunni and Shi'a to serfdom.

The interior minister noted that it was Imam Khomeyni who after a lapse of over a millenium, revived the true spirit of the annual religious-political assembly called Hajj.

Enemies of islam, he said have been greatly perturbed and led by the Al Sa'ud, are attempting to strip the Hajj of "its divine spirit and turn it into a mere meaningless physical ritual."

By far the darkest crime of the Saudis was the massacre of 400 plus pilgrims near the sacred Ka'ba on July 31, 1987, which awakened world Muslims to the dangers posed by the Wahhabi heresy to Islam.

Mohtashemi Comments on Elections, 'Spy Ring'

LD1507195289 Tehran IRNA in English
1900 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Minister of the interior said today that about 24 million people were eligible to vote in the presidential elections. He also predicted a much higher turn-out (compared with the previous rounds) in the nationwide elections to be held on July 28 simultaneously with a referendum for constitutional amendment.

Speaking at a news conference attended by foreign and Iranian reporters, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said 16.5 million people participated in the previous presidential elections in 1984 in which Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i was elected for a second term.

He said the latest nationwide (parliamentary) elections were held 15 months ago under conditions that more than 50 Iranian cities and towns were under Iraqi missile and air attacks. "Nonetheless, the people went to the polls with great enthusiasm and elected their representatives. This proves the existence of stability and power and that the government is in control of the affairs," he pointed out.

On the constitutional referendum, he said the voters will write 'yes' or 'no' on a sheet of paper.

In response to a question that what the late imam meant by 'liberals', Mohtashemi said he meant the 'Freedom Movement', the 'Iranian Society for Defense of Freedom and Human Rights', the 'Movement of Combatant Muslims' (UMMAT), the 'Revolutionary Movement of the People of Iran (JAMA)', as well as the Monafeqin (the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization).

On trial of members of a U.S. spy ring busted in Iran a few months ago, he said 50 to 60 people had been arrested and investigations were still continuing. He said until the case was not closed, no date could be decided for the trial of the spies. [sentence as received]

Velayati Blames Iraq for Stalled Peace Talks

LD1507184689 Tehran IRNA in English
1750 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday held the Baghdad regime responsible for the deadlock in the UN sponsored peace talks.

"The stalemate in the negotiations is due to the fact that the main part of the UN Resolution 598 has not yet been implemented," Velayati said. He was referring to Baghdad's refusal to pull its forces from some 2,600 sq. kms of Iranian territory it still occupies.

The Baghdad regime wants the clearing of the Arvand River (or Shatt al-Arab) of war debris, something which is not included in the Security Council resolution. Iran however does not reject the Iraqi demand, but insists it should take place after withdrawal of forces to the international boundaries.

Velayati said Jan Eliasson, the special envoy of the UN chief would probably visit Tehran and Baghdad to break the stalled talks.

Iran and Iraq have so far held four rounds of talks, three in Geneva and one in New York under the supervision of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, since Iran accepted the resolution last August.

Lebanese Figures Meets Velayati, Khamene'i

LD1507090689 Tehran IRNA in English
0850 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Latest developments in Lebanon were discussed here Friday night between leaders of Amal and Hizballah militias in the presence of the Iranian foreign minister.

The need for strengthening unity among Muslims and continuity of Lebanese struggle against the Zionist enemy and their agents were stressed.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the vice speaker of the Lebanese Shi'a Assembly Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din.

Velayati reiterated support to the Lebanese people and said Iran "will employ all its efforts to consolidate unity among Lebanese Muslims and backs their struggle against the Islam's enemies."

"We are certain that Muslims' unity will bring about the defeat of world arrogance and their agents in the region."

In an interview with the daily ABRAR published Saturday Amal leader Nabih Birri said Iraq's support for Michel 'Awn's illegal Maronite regime had complicated the Lebanese crisis.

"In the past year he (Iraq's Saddam Husayn) has been more generous to 'Awn than Israel had been to (Christian Militia leader) Antoine Lahad in the past 14, 15 years," he said.

Birri called for Syria "and other nations" to create a balance by supplying arms to Lebanese Muslim forces.

In another development, Lebanese Shi'a Leader al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who is also here, was received by the leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Friday night.

The Lebanese officials and personalities arrived in Tehran last week to attend ceremonies marking the end of 40 days of mourning for the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

Lebanese, Palestinian Groups Meet in Tehran

LD1507180189 Tehran IRNA in English
1710 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15 IRNA—Representatives of Lebanese and Palestinian groups, now in Iran, are expected to announce a joint agreement this evening or tomorrow, it was announced here after a joint session at the Foreign Ministry Saturday afternoon.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam told IRNA that the groups are "to coordinate views on three axes, namely struggle against global arrogance, Zionism and Michel 'Awn's illegal government."

Participants in the meeting were Nabih Birri, head of the Amal movement, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, from the Hizballah, Khalil Ahmad Khalil from the Socialist Progressive Party (Walid Junblatt's branch) and Ahmad Jibril from Palestine's Shoaibiya Front (General Command) [as received].

The Lebanese and Palestinian leaders arrived here on Monday accompanying Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who was in Damasacus last week for talks on recent Amal-Hizballah clashes.

They participated in a ceremony held here Thursday to mark the end of a forty-day public mourning for the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy for Afro-Arab countries, said the meeting was held upon the request of the Lebanese and Palestinian leaders themselves.

"The main objective of the meeting is to discuss the struggle to establish a popular government in Lebanon as the Lebanese people wish," he said.

He added that Lebanese and Syrian officials who attended yesterday's commemoration ceremony, approved of the draft agreement although no representatives of their respective governments were present at the meeting.

High ranking Iranian Foreign Ministry officials mediated the meeting, Sheykh ol-Eslam said.

Other participants were Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], head of the splinter Fatah movement, Mahir Hamood, from the Community of Muslim 'ulema, Ibrahim Naser from Al-Tawhid Movement, Ali Ammar [three previous names as received] from the Islamic Front, etc.

Commenting on today's meeting, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at a news conference that members of five groups had been commissioned to draw up a joint text to be endorsed by all factions.

Speaking to a group of foreign and domestic reporters here Saturday, Velayati said the Amal movement, the Hizballah, the Palestinians, the Lebanese nationalist groups and the community of Muslim ulema were represented each by one person in drawing up the general agreement.

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Velayati on Joint Talks

LD1507192689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent after meeting with Lebanese and Palestinian organization leaders 15 July, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dr. Velayati, please tell us about the results of the meeting you had with the leaders of parties and the main groups of Lebanon and Palestine, and in general what effects do you think the decisions made will have on the future of Lebanon?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Around 14 struggling Lebanese and Palestinian groups were represented in today's meeting. We used the opportunity of their presence in the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to make necessary harmonizations between the IRI's stands and those of the struggling Lebanese and Palestinian groups. Of course the relations between Iran and Lebanon and Palestine are strategic because Lebanon and Palestine are in a very important region and they are the two Islamic countries that each in a different way have either been occupied or are under pressure by the agents of colonization or of world arrogance. With regard to the fact that the IRI feels responsible to defend Islamic ideals and Muslims' interests all over the world, it is obvious that a main part of the Foreign Ministry's efforts have been spent strengthening the solidarity between the Muslim and progressive strugglers and fighters in these regions.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Joint Statement Calls for Unity

LD1607073989 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Lebanese nationalist-Islamic groups and Palestinian national resistance organisations issued a joint statement in Tehran Saturday after holding two rounds of talks at the presence of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The statement issued by the 14 Lebanese and Palestinian groups currently in Iran, stressed unity against the enemies and condemned presence of Iraqi forces in Lebanon.

"Struggle against the Zionist in occupied Palestine is the one between life and death and will continue till eradication of the Zionist regime," it said, adding that armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine and the Holy Qods.

The participants among them head of the Amal movement Nabih Birri, Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the Socialist Progressive Party official Khalil Ahmad Khalil (Walid Jumblatt's branch), Ahmad Jibril from the Palestine Shoaibiya Front (General Command), and head of the splinter Fatah Movement, backed the recent Damascus agreement and condemned any move aimed at damaging unity.

The Palestinian and Lebanese groups arrived here Monday to attend the mourning ceremonies in commemoration of Imam Khomeyni who passed away on June 3 after undergoing a surgical operation.

While here the groups held talks together and also with the Iranian officials and pledged support for the wise stances of the late imam who was in the front line of anti-Zionist and anti- imperialist campaign in the region.

The national and Islamic Lebanese groups and Palestinian national resistance forces discussed the latest political development in the region, issues related to the oppressed and the Muslims and revolutionary forces of the Islamic and Arab world.

The statement appealed for unity of all groups in a single and all-out front against the Maronite forces and their sectarian plans.

It called for protection of Arab and Islamic identity of Lebanon which demands the overthrow of the military forces of Michel 'Awn and liberation of Lebanon from Zionist forces.

The statement deplored presence of Iraqi forces in Lebanon which it said "has entered a dangerous stage" and called for confrontation with the Baghdad regime.

The confrontation, it stressed will be achieved through unity of all Islamic and nationalist forces of Lebanon, national Palestinian groups, Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Praising Iran-Syria cooperation for the cause of Lebanon, the statement described it as the main support for the revolutionary forces of Lebanon.

"Confrontation with the Zionist enemy in the occupied Palestine requires a unified outlook and analysis regarding the enemy's nature," it said, further calling for escalation of the struggle and removal of all obstacles on this way.

The statement stressed continuation of the struggle until liberation of Lebanon and joining the popular movement of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It also deplored any compromising move, a step it defined as legitimizing the Zionist regime and betraying the Palestinian cause.

The statement also pledged allegiance to Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati Meets With Lebanese

LD1707070489 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Representatives of national Lebanese groups called for Iran's support for their campaign against imperialist and Zionist agents.

The call was made during Sunday's meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The representatives arrived here last week to take part in ceremonies marking the end of 40 days of mourning for the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

Leaders of Hizballah and Amal organizations, two Palestinian guerrilla groups based in Lebanon as well as other Lebanese factions are taking part in the talks which began last week. They issued a joint-statement Saturday stressing the need for solidarity.

In Sunday's talks Velayati renewed Iran's support for the campaigns of Islamic and national forces in Lebanon and urged them to remain united.

Pakistan

Indian Prime Minister Makes Official Visit

Security Tight for Visit

BK1507121489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 15 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is to arrive here Sunday [16 July] amid tight security as opposition and Kashmiri leaders plan to protest New Delhi's rule of the Moslem-dominated Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Hundreds of police and special security officers will be mobilised in the capital during the 24-hour official visit, the first by an Indian prime minister in 30 years.

Political parties of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, a quasi-autonomous area of Pakistan across the border from the Indian state, will hold a rally at the Rawalpindi Press Club, followed by a march to the U.N. observers mission office in Kashmir, press reports said.

Azad (free) Jammu and Kashmir was carved out of the Indian state after the first Indo-Pakistani war in 1948.

Some opposition parties plan to support the Kashmiri demonstration. Party workers plan to carry black banners in the procession, the reports said.

The president of the Pakistani Region, Sardar Abdul Qayyum, said at a press conference here this week that Kashmiris would protest against Mr. Gandhi, but added: "We don't oppose these bilateral talks, we want to assert our independent presence."

Mr. Qayyum and Abdul Majid Malik, a prominent leader of the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance, have urged Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to hold a national dialogue before taking any decision on the Kashmir issue, which includes a longstanding dispute over the Siachen glacier, located in the area.

Mr. Gandhi, who arrives Sunday afternoon after talks in Moscow, will be accompanied by his wife Sonia and a high-level delegation which includes External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao.

He is expected to call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan before having talks with Ms. Bhutto and attending a banquet in his honour.

The two premiers are to hold a joint press conference just before Mr. Gandhi leaves on Monday. After the meeting, Mr. Rao and his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, will head delegations in two days of talks on expanding cooperation.

Met by Bhutto

BK1607135689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a short working visit to Pakistan. He is accompanied by Mrs Sonia Gandhi; the foreign minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; and members of his entourage.

He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. Also present on the occasion are the Senate chairman, Mr Wasim Sajjad; the speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid; federal ministers; ministers of state; special assistants; services chiefs; members of Parliament; diplomats; senior officials; and members of the Indian community in Islamabad.

The airport ceremony also included a 19-gun salute, playing of national anthems of the two countries, and a guard of honor by contingents drawn from the three services.

The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, said the relations between Pakistan and India have steadily improved since December last. She was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this afternoon before the arrival of the Indian prime minister. She, however, cautioned against expectations of any sudden and dramatic confirmation in Indo-Pak relations. On Kashmir, Ms Benazir Bhutto said our role is constructive and sensible. She disagreed with a questioner that the problem had not been raised with India after the signing of Simla Accord, and pointed out that it had been discussed with Mr Rajiv Gandhi when he visited Islamabad in December last.

Talks Aim at Better Relations

BK1607125689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Official talks between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Pakistan premier, Ms Benazir Bhutto, have begun in Islamabad. The entire gamut of issues between the two countries is likely to figure in the discussions.

The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, D.P. Das, accompanying the prime minister reports that India has set a path to improve its relations with Pakistan. India would like the era of suspicion to be over.

Our correspondent understands that India is ready to provide several concessions to Pakistan, including liberalization of visa restrictions, more trade and tourism facilities, student exchanges and in the field of science and technology. [as heard]

Mr Gandhi's talks with Ms Bhutto and other Pakistan leaders will cover bilateral, regional and international issues and further improve the existing relations. [passage omitted]

Immediately after his arrival, Mr Gandhi called on the Pakistani president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Mr Gandhi will have an informal meeting with members of the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan later today. Ms Bhutto is hosting a banquet in honor of Mr Gandhi tonight. Mr Gandhi will address a joint news conference with Ms Bhutto before leaving for New Delhi tomorrow.

Bhutto on Siachen, Kashmir

BK1607170089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jul

[Excerpts] Talks between the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and the visiting Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, were held in Islamabad this evening. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said relations between Pakistan and India have steadily improved since December last, when a breakthrough was made with the signing of three agreements between them. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport before the arrival of the Indian prime minister, she said bilateral relations have been improving step by step. The prime minister, however, cautioned against expectations of any sudden and dramatic transformation in Indo-Pak relations, but maintained that given the favorable atmosphere and positive outcome of each step, we shall achieve the goal of good relations.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said good relations between Pakistan and India would also have a (?soothing) effect on the fighting in Afghanistan. In this context, she pointed to her informal exchange of views on Afghanistan with the Indian prime minister during their stay in Paris.

On Siachen, the prime minister said it is hoped that an agreement would be reached in the light of talks between the defense secretaries of the two countries. Ms Benazir Bhutto said Siachen is a major issue and a (?flashpoint). Pakistan would take advantage of the Indian prime minister's current visit to exchange views on this issue. The sooner an agreement is reached on the issue the better, she emphasized.

On Kashmir, the prime minister said our role is constructive and sensible. She disagreed with a questioner that the problem had not been raised with India after signing of the Simla accord and pointed out that it had been discussed with Mr Rajiv Gandhi when he last visited Islamabad in December. She emphasized that specific mention of Kashmir was made in the Simla accord at the time of signing without prejudice to the viewpoint of either side on the issue.

Replying to a question, Ms Benazir Bhutto said the people in history were bound to appreciate the initiative taken by the government in the national interest and in the interest of regional stability on the basis of equality and self respect. She conceded that the opposition of the country was unhappy, but this was because the present government has achieved in 6 months what they have failed to achieved in 10 years.

Gandhi Urges Peaceful Coexistence

BK1607164689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has emphasized the need for safeguarding the sovereignities of the countries not through the illusionary military strength, but through a conscious pursuit of friendship between the nations. It falls upon generations to silence the guns and seek enduring solutions which only peaceful coexistence can ensure.

Mr Gandhi was replying to the welcome address by the Pakistani prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, at a banquet given by her in his honor in Islamabad a short while ago.

Mr Gandhi said we have to work together in the great struggle that lies ahead. Referring to the common problems and challenges faced by India and Pakistan, the prime minister said ours is a shared mission to end injustice and oppression inflicted upon our countries and other developing nations by the inequality and the irrationality, the exploitation, the cruelty, and the violence of the present international order.

Mr Gandhi said we are summoned to greater task instead of aggravating the scars of history. In the larger global context, we must rise above the stocks of pending problems unworthy of our larger destiny.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi declared there is a great destiny that lies before India and Pakistan. It is a destiny we can achieve together as friends and good neighbors, he said.

Recalling that India and Pakistan are heirs to a great civilization that transcends the border, which now separates us, Mr Gandhi said Mehergarh and Mohenjodero, and (Kildihawa) and (Kalibanjan) take us back to the very beginning of organized human settlement. Ajmer Sherif and Taj Mahal are part of what you are, even as Taxila and Nankana Sahib are inseparable from what we are. We are united by the cultural heritage of the last 5,000 years.

Mr Gandhi recalled the Simla Agreement signed between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and said we started on that path. It is possible because the will of the people of Pakistan determines the will of the government.

Mr Gandhi pointed out that friendship between neighbors, such as ours, cannot be built by governments alone. Our friendship has to be built, most of all, by our people among themselves. Nothing is more important than removing the roadblocks that have been placed in the way of our people getting to know each other.

Mr Gandhi said cultural exchanges are highly treasured but have been rendered a rarity.

Mr Gandhi said we seek an end to actions aimed at infringing our integrity. We also seek an end to the clashes and conflicts that have led to loss of so many precious lives in the formidable ice-bound terrain of the north. The constructive discussions held on the subject contained encouraging pointers to a possible settlement.

Mr Gandhi expressed the confidence that Ms Bhutto has the strength to respond to his call.

Earlier, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto held discussions. Matters of mutual interest and regional and international issues came up for discussion.

The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, D.P. Das, accompanying the prime minister reports that India has set a path to improve its relations with Pakistan.

Banquet Speeches Detailed

BK1707032289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The prime ministers of Pakistan and India have said that both countries want to work for the establishment of durable peace and security in South Asia so as to devote their resources and energies to development. Speaking at the banquet hosted by the Pakistan prime minister in honor of her Indian counterpart in Islamabad last night, both leaders emphasized the need for conducting their bilateral relations in consonance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Ms Benazir Bhutto in her speech said the Simla Agreement has ensured peace between the two countries over the last 17 years and we should ensure that this agreement is implemented in letter and spirit. She referred to the new era of relations which dawned last December [during the SAARC summit in Islamabad] between the two countries, opening the end to mutual apprehensions and mistrust. She said we want to reaffirm our pledge that we will respect the principles of equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs which are the basis of this new era of relations.

Ms Benazir Bhutto also referred to the exchanges between the two countries at the official level since last December and said these have contributed toward good progress. She expressed confidence that the Pakistan-India Commission, which is meeting in Islamabad from tomorrow, will work toward forging links at the grass-roots level between the two countries and increasing cooperation in cultural, economic, and other sectors which would help establish more objective relations on the basis of equality and mutual trust.

The prime minister said now that traditional differences are being replaced by an atmosphere of peace and friendship in the world, we should also ensure that peace and amity in our region do not become hostage to narrow considerations.

Ms Benazir Bhutto emphasized the need to keep South Asia free of nuclear weapons and said Pakistan is ready for everything which guarantees the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. She proposed arms control talks with an aim to stopping the arms race in the region.

Ms Benazir Bhutto described the setting up of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] as a step toward promotion of peace and cooperation and said we should consolidate its objectives.

In his reply, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi emphasized the role of the present younger generations in the two countries in safeguarding national sovereignty through the pursuit of friendship and not through increasing military strength. He said the vast majority of our people have grown up in independent and sovereign India and Pakistan and it is their duty to seek enduring solutions to the disputes that only peaceful coexistence can ensure.

He said that the people in India view with great respect the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto's determination and courage through which she overcame the difficulties. Mr Rajiv Gandhi commended the Pakistan prime minister's wisdom and determination in connection with the promotion of peace and cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the Simla Agreement, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the journey which this agreement opened has witnessed an impasse in its progress because the government's will was forced on the wishes of the people of Pakistan. But now the people's opinion has once again gained ascendency and this, in turn has restarted the process of improvement of relations.

Referring to Siachen, the Indian prime minister said that we want to end confrontation and conflicts because many precious lives have been lost in this desolate, icy area. He added that talks held in a constructive manner on this issue provide an encouraging sign for a possible solution. Mr Rajiv Gandhi emphasized the need to settle this dispute in accordance with the Simla Agreement without any outside interference and on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty, independence, and security.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi also stressed the need to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and friendship and end hatred and apprehensions between the people of two countries. In this connection, he proposed removing obstacles existing in the way of travel, trade, exchange of information, and cultural exchanges.

Earlier, the prime ministers of Pakistan and India at their formal talks discussed bilateral matters and regional and international issues. Leaders met together without any aides for 90 minutes. They were later joined by their delegations, which included the foreign ministers of the two countries and special assistants to the prime ministers. The two sides also reviewed the situation arising out of the postponement of the SAARC ministrial council session. Both sides reaffirmed their determination to improve bilateral relations and settle pending issues between the two countries.

The four subcommissions of the Pakistan-India Joint Commission are meeting in Islamabad this morning. The subcommissions will prepare for the joint commission's session which will begin in the federal capital tomorrow.

Delhi Notes 16 Jul Talks

BK1707040289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan have been directed to give further impetus to the process of improving relations in various areas between the two countries. The directive was issued by the two prime ministers, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto, after their discussions in Islamabad last night.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi is on a 2-day official visit to Pakistan. The India-Pakistan Joint Commission [session] begins in the Pakistan capital today.

During their discussions, Ms Benazir Bhutto told Mr Gandhi that Pakistan attaches highest importance to improved relations with India. She said the atmosphere of suspicion should end and the wave of peace which is moving across the globe should enable the two countries to make a fresh beginning. The Siachen issue also figured during the talks.

An official spokesman said the progress of the talks was satisfying.

The prime minister extended an invitation to Ms Benazir Bhutto to visit India. Accepting it, she said she is working out the program.

The two prime ministers had a discussion initially for 1 and ½ hours without aides. Later, the delegations of the two sides joined them.

Thanking the prime minister for his official visit, Ms Benazir Bhutto said this is indicative of Mr Gandhi's sincere intention to strengthen bilateral relations.

Our correspondent D.P. Das reports from Islamabad that before his departure for home later this morning, the prime minister will address a joint news conference with Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Earlier, speaking at a banquet hosted by Ms Benazir Bhutto in honor of Mr Rajiv Gandhi last night, the two leaders had said that they are on the verge of finalizing proposals which would go a long way to increase people-to-people contacts and cooperation between the two countries in the cultural, commercial, and other fields. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it falls upon our generations to silence the guns that have come in the way of our peace and to seek an enduring solution to the problems facing the two countries through peaceful coexistence. Mr Gandhi added we also seek an independent solution of bilateral disputations between our representatives on problems which are ours alone, not in fora where other interests prevail. Our two countries, he emphasized, are mature enough to find a solution to bilateral issues strictly within the framework of mutual respect for our independence, sovereignty and integrity. Mr Gandhi said we do not need the intervention of others.

Ms Benazir Bhutto in her welcome speech said that now that nations with traditional hostilities are moving toward peace and friendship, we must ensure that in our region peace and amity do not become hostage to narrow national considerations.

Both the leaders reaffirmed their abiding faith in the Simla Agreement. They also recalled the historic and cultural ties between the two countries. Mr Gandhi said we cannot build trust between our countries unless we trust our people.

Mr Gandhi referred to his meetings in Paris with several world leaders and said that he is convinced that even the G-7 leaders have now an open mind on economic relations with the developing countries. He noted that the global interests of India and Pakistan are not different and, therefore, enormous scope exists for evolving a joint strategy for international (?fora) like the GATT.

Mr Gandhi congratulated Ms Benazir Bhutto on Pakistan's entry into the Commonwealth. She in return thanked Mr Gandhi for India's support for her country.

Among other subjects, detailed discussions were discussions on Afghanistan, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the prime minister's visit to China. Mr Gandhi told Ms Benazir Bhutto of his talks with Mr Gorbachev during his visit to Moscow.

Ishaq Khan, Gandhi Confer

BK1607160489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jul

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan stressed the importance of ending the impression that India wants to gain the upper hand in the region and said that there is a need for steps to create confidence in one another. He said this while talking to Rajiv Gandhi, who met him in the Presidency in Islamabad. The president made it clear that the presence of democratically-elected governments in the two countries provides better opportunities for settling the outstanding issues between them. He said: Some old issues have become involved and there is a need for an atmosphere of spending more time to solve them. A positive start may be made by solving these issues, which have been created relatively recently. In this connection, he referred to the Wular Barrage and Siachen issues.

The Indian prime minister said his country respects the sovereignty of Pakistan and does not want to gain the upper hand over it. He said the time has come for the two countries to strengthen their relations on healthy grounds.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Rajiv Gandhi expressed satisfaction over the progress in bilateral relations and agreed that the pace should gain more momemtum.

President on 'Hegemonic Designs'

BK1607153689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 16 (AFP)—Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Sunday [16 July] openly criticised India for its hegemonic designs in the region, hours after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived here on a brief working visit.

In a conversation with Mr. Gandhi at his official residence here, Mr. Ishaq Khan said "the impression of India wanting to have hegemony over the region has to be dispelled," Pakistan television reported. "It may be wrong but it is necessary to remove it to pave the way for the two countries to come closer to each other," he added.

Mr. Gandhi, responding to the allegations, said "India respects Pakistan's sovereignty and has no desire whatsoever to dominate."

Mr. Ishaq Khan stressed that the existence of the democratically elected governments in the two countries offers better opportunities to resolve outstanding issues between them. "The right kind of ambience now exists to take up the issues with vigor and determination," he added.

He also refered to the Siachen Glacier issue in the disputed Kashmir State and an Indian plan to build a dam over the Jehlum River which some fear will affect the flow of water to Pakistan. "If these issues are not settled now they may continue for generations without doing any good for the two countries," the Pakistan president said.

Mr. Gandhi agreed the relations must be put back on the proper track, adding that "if India and Pakistan remained cut off they would be left behind" the rest of the world.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto later began formal talks with Mr. Gandhi who flew here Sunday on a one-day working visit, the first official trip by an Indian leader in nearly 30 years.

Ms. Bhutto, who warmly received Mr. Gandhi amid tight security, said at the airport that "no dramatic development" can be expected from the visit.

There is no agenda for talks but official sources here said the two prime ministers will be discussing the whole range of issues confronting the two uneasy neighbours who have thrice gone to war since their independence in 1947.

Pakistan is current chairman of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) grouping India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has asked New Delhi to withdraw the 45,000 troops sent to Sri Lanka two years ago under an agreement signed by previous President Junius Jayewardene designed to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

Mr. Gandhi left for home after a 20 hour stay in Islamabad on the last leg of his three-nation tour that also took him to France and the Soviet Union.

It was the first official visit to Pakistan by an Indian prime minister in some 30 years.

Bhutto, Gandhi News Conference

BK1707061189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0552 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP) - Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ended his one day visit to Pakistan Monday amid a continued impasse on major issues facing the two countries.

"There is a tremendous backlog of problems. We have to chip them away," Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said at a joint press conference here.

"There is no quick fix answer to these problems," she said, admitting that the two countries had different perceptions on major issues hampering normalisation.

Mr. Gandhi also described Pakistan's nuclear programme as "one of the biggest problems" for India, and the Siachen Glacier issue in the disputed Kashmir State as "complicated."

Implicitly rejecting a Pakistani proposal to reach a regional treaty on nuclear non-proliferation, he said the "nuclear issue can not be seen as an isolated regional issue. It has to be solved in a comprehensive manner."

Mr. Gandhi, however, denied that "India was acting like a regional bully" and agreed to have foreign minister level talks with Pakistan on Sri Lanka's complaints against the continuing presence of Indian troops in the island state.

Mr. Gandhi also said at the press conference before his departure that he discussed the Afghanistan issue with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday. But he said he brought no specific proposal from the Kremlin on the matter.

"We believe the Geneva accords was the best way to resolve the Afghan issue," he said, adding that all parties must adhere to that agreement.

The accords, signed by Kabul and Islamabad and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington in April last year, paved the way for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan completed by last February 15.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government has accused Pakistan of breaking the accords by supporting the rebel mujahidin guerrillas and alleged Islamabad plans to invade Afghanistan. Pakistan has denied the invasion charge.

Further on News Conference

BK1707091989 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said both India and Pakistan are determined to go on pursuing their stance for peace to lower tension bit by bit and solve problems between them. She was addressing a joint news conference in Islamabad this morning along with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at the end of his brief working visit to Pakistan. She said Pakistan welcomed the Indian prime minister's visit as high-level contacts were necessary to build trust and confidence between the two countries and review progress made at different levels so far. She said she looks forward to accepting the Indian prime minister's kind invitation to visit that country. She said it was unfair to expect that the whole backlog of problems between the two countries will be solved overnight but mere fact that they have been making progress since December last with laudable achievement. In this context, she referred to the favorable climate created since the signing of three bilateral agreements in December and the progress achieved in talks at official level. She said the problems relating to visas and other problems in travel between the two countries would be redressed by the Pakistan-India Joint Ministerial Commission, which meets in Islamabad tomorrow.

Replying to a question, Ms Benazir Bhutto said she and Mr Rajiv Gandhi took the opportunity to review talks held by their aides last night just before coming to the news conference. Their meetings, she said, were productive and they were able to clarify the situation. Replying to a question, both the leaders said they were full of hope that the two countries would be able to solve their problems and divert their resources toward the uplift of their people. They pointed toward the opening of talks on Siachen as well as on other fronts to reduce tension.

On Siachen, the Indian prime minister said he felt his current visit and talks in Islamabad had given a momentum to the efforts to resolve the issue. The Pakistan prime minister said their discussions had helped to clarify different aspects of the issue. However, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the problem of Siachen is very complicated and cannot be resolved instantly. A number of steps need to be taken. He said they had been having talks about the issue and the progress had been good. He indicated that they would be able to accelerate the pace of talks. Ms Benazir Bhutto added that another meeting in this connection will take place within a month.

The Indian Prime Minister was seen off at the Islamabad airport by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, when he left for New Delhi at the end of his visit to Pakistan. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has now arrived in New Delhi.

Gandhi Departs 17 Jul

BK1707061889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that both Pakistan and India are determined to establish peace in the region and progress has been made in the recent talks between the two countries. The prime minister said this while addressing a joint press conference with Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi in Islamabad this morning. The prime ministers of the two countries answered various questions from Indian and Pakistani correspondents about Siechen, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, and the nuclear weapons race in the region.

Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto said both sides spelled out their stand on those various issues which confront the two countries. On Siachen, she said good progress has been made in connection with this issue.

Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi spoke about his viewpoint on the nuclear issue, Siachen, Kashmir, and India-Nepal relations.

Details of the *joint news conference are still coming in.* The Indian prime minister has now left Islamabad for New Delhi at the conclusion of his brief official visit to Pakistan. Ms Benazir Bhutto saw him off.

Kashmiris Stage Protest Rally Against India

BK1607164189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] A number of Kashmiri political parties held a protest meeting and demonstration in Rawalpindi today. The demonstrators later marched to the United Nations observer headquarters to hand over a memorandum. It urged the UN Secretary General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, to make India hold a plebiscite in the occupied Kashmir in accordance with the UN resolutions.

A demonstration was also held in Karachi. The demonstrators carried banners, which read: No Indo-Pak amity at the cost of Kashmir. They also raised slogans.

Sri Lanka

Government, Tamils React to Leaders' Murder

LTTE Denies Involvement

BK1407121889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group Friday denied involvement in the killing of two Tamil politicians and said the murders may be aimed at sabotaging its peace talks with Colombo.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement received here from London that it was "not in any way" involved in the assassination of two Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leaders late Thursday.

Three gunmen shot dead TULF leaders Appapillai Amirthalingam, an MP [member of Parliament], and V. Yogeshwaran, a former MP, at their Colombo residence before bodyguards attached to the politicians shot and killed the attackers. A third TULF leader, Murugesu Sivasithambaram, was also shot and wounded by the attackers, who were suspected to be Tamil militants.

"The LTTE learns with deep distress of the tragic demise of the TULF leaders, Mr. A. Amirthalingam and Mr. V. Yogeshwaran... The LTTE is not in any way involved in the incident.

"We suspect that diabolical forces are at work to discredit our organisation and to disrupt the current peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE," it added.

A Tamil political party ruling Sri Lanka's North-Eastern Province Friday announced a three-day mourning period throughout the region to mourn the TULF leaders, a spokesman for the group said here. The Eelam

People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which made the announcement, and three other Tamil groups also decided to observe seven days of mourning in eastern Batticaloa District, residents said by telephone. Batticaloa is a predominantly Tamil area.

Tamil sources here said that hundreds of white flags had been put up atop houses and shops throughout the north-east to mourn the killings, while people had been asked to sport black badges. "Posters are being put up the north-east praising their (Mr. Amirthalingam's and Mr. Yogeshwaran's) contribution to the Tamil cause," the EPRLF spokesman said.

In a related development, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) offered "salutes" to the slain leaders for making "the supreme sacrifice in the selfless service of our people."

LTTE 'Deleted' From Allegations

BK1407152589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Madras, India, July 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan censors Friday [14 July] put a blanket ban on all references to the dominant Tamil militant group in the assassination of the island's two prominent Tamil leaders, Tamil sources here said. The censors deleted all reports about the alleged involvement of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the slayings of the two Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leaders at their Colombo residence late Thursday.

But the authorities permitted a statement put out by the LTTE, who are now holding peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government, denying involvement and blaming "diabolical forces" for the killings, the sources said.

Three men shot dead TULF leaders Appapillai Amirthalingam, MP [member of Parliament], and V. Yogeswaran, a former MP [member of Parliament], in Colombo Thursday before being shot and killed by bodyguards.

The sources, who said they had been in telephone contact with Colombo, said relatives of the two slain men had told reporters and police that the killers were from the LTTE and that at least one was well-known to Mr. Yogeswaran.

The known assailant was identified as Visu, who was once placed in the LTTE high command and was flown on an Indian Air Force jet to Sri Lanka's northern Vavuniya District in May 1988 when the LTTE freed an Indian soldier it had captured.

The LTTE, which has been blamed for the deaths of more than 1,500 rival Tamil militants in Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist campaign, had reportedly sentenced Mr. Amirthalingam to death in the mid-1980's for his moderate views.

Sri Lankan Tamil groups which have blamed the LTTE for the murders include the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front. The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam have also condemned the murders.

The sources said here that Mr. Yogeswaran's wife, Sarojini, 42, told the inquest in Colombo that her husband had told her Thursday that the LTTE representatives, including Mr. Visu, would come to their house for a discussion in the evening.

Most Sri Lankan Tamil groups have offices in this southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, home to some 55 million Indian Tamils and which is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

EPRLF on Responsibility

BK1507102889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 15 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil separatist party on Saturday [15 July] asked Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa to accept responsibility for the assassination of two top moderate Tamil politicians in Colombo.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said the president should take responsibility for the murders Thursday of Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leader Appapillai Amirthalingam, 61, and former MP [member of Parliament], V. Yogeswaran.

Several Sri Lankan Tamil groups, including the pro-Indian EPRLF, have accused the island's dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), of the murders. The Tigers have denied the charges.

EPRLF Secretary-General K. Padmanabha, in a statement issued in the southern city of Madras, said the assassinations had "proved the hollowness" of Mr. Premadasa's claim that the LTTE had given up violence.

Referring to last month's announcement by the LTTE that it was ceasing hostilities against the government to begin peace peace talks, Mr. Padmanabha said the killings were the "result of the creation of a centre at Colombo from where the LTTE recruits its cadres with the support of the government.

"At this hour of sorrow, I would like to remind the government that peace in the island can be achieved only by implementing the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord, and not by rearming the LTTE to kill Tamil leaders and Tamil people," his statement, also released in eastern Sri Lanka's Trincomalee town, said.

The EPRLF [which] runs the administration of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province where Indians are have been fighting the LTTE since October 1987.

New Delhi on Friday joined Tamil separatist groups in accusing the LTTE of responsibility for the double murder by three men carrying pistols. Colombo has said it is investigating the crime, but has not blamed any group.

The EPRLF statement said the killing of the two leaders also disproved Mr. Premadasa's frequent claims that his government would protect Tamils and accept responsibility for their security.

The EPRLF supports the July 1987 peace pact signed between Mr. Gandhi and former Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene. The pact is aimed at ending the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

The group also condemned Mr. Premadasa for entering into negotiations with the LTTE and for asking New Delhi to withdraw the 45,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) from the island by July 29, the second anniversary of the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

New Delhi has rejected Mr. Premadasa's request for the troop withdrawal.

The LTTE has repudiated the accord and lost 2,000 of its guerrillas in the offensive the IPKF launched October 1987 to try and disarm the dominant Tamil group. Some 1,000 Indian soldiers have died in the skirmishes so far. [passage omitted]

Premadasa Orders Investigation

BK1507164289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has directed the inspector general of police to personally initiate inquiries into the assassination of TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders [Amirthalingam and Yogeswaran]. In a statement released in Colombo today, he said those responsible for the killing would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Bodies Flown to Trincomalee

BK1607094089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 16 (AFP)—The bodies of two Tamil leaders shot dead by suspected Tamil militants were flown Sunday to eastern Sri Lanka to enable people there to pay last respects, Tamil sources said. The bodies of Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) stalwarts Appapillai Amirthalingam, MP [member of Parliament], and V. Yogeswaran, a former MP, were flown to Trincomalee's China Bay Airfield from here, where they were killed late Thursday. The three killers were in turn shot dead by Mr. Amirthalingam's bodyguards as they tried to escape.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has denied involvement in the killings and blamed "diabolical forces" intent on disrupting its peace dialogue with the government now under way here. [passage omitted]

The bodies were later flown from China Bay into Trincomalee town's main stadium in an Indian Air Force helicopter, said the sources over the telephone from the eastern port city. The bodies would be taken around the town and then kept in the building housing the offices of the Northeastern Provincial Council, which administers the Tamil-majority region, the sources said. Later Sunday, the bodies would be flown to adjoining Batticaloa District before being taken Monday to northern Jaffna Peninsula, to which the two TULF leaders belonged and where they are to be cremated.

Tamil sources and family members said the three gunmen who killed the TULF leaders had come saying they wanted to have a discussion on Tamil politics and opened fire suddenly after some 20 minutes of friendly discussions.

Political parties and Tamil groups continued to issue condolence messages mourning the death of the two and praying for the speedy recovery of a third TULF leader, Murugesu Sivasithambaram, who was wounded in the attack.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has condemned the killings and ordered the country's inspector general of police to investigate the case personally.

Thousands Pay Last Respects

BK1607131989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 16 (AFP)—Thousands of people turned out in eastern Sri Lanka's Trincomalee town Sunday [16 July] to pay their last respects to two Tamil leaders slain here by suspected Tamil militants, residents said. Crowds thronged the narrow streets of Trincomalee as the bodies of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) stalwarts Appapillai Amirthalingam and V. Yogeswaran were taken out in a procession, residents reached by telephone said. [passage omitted]

Trincomalee's residents said thousands of men, women and youths joined the procession, which, accompanied by heavily-armed Indian soldiers, took about two hours to wind its way through virtually all of the port town.

The bodies were later kept for viewing in the office of the Northeastern Provincial Council, which administers the Tamil-majority region where India has deployed some 45,000 troops under a 1987 peace accord with Sri Lanka.

Among the early mourners were President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who flew in from neighbouring Ampara District, his cabinet colleagues and Annamalai Varadarajaperumal, chief minister of the Northeastern Province.

Residents said more than 10,000 people had already filed past the bodies, draped in flowers and in a white cloth bearing the TULF symbol, the rising sun. Many hundreds were reportedly waiting in serpentine queues for their turn.

"It seems as if the whole town has come to pay its respect to them," one resident said, adding that scores of women broke down and wept.

Trincomalee's houses and shops were flying hundreds of black flags while Tamil groups, including the TULF, had put up posters mourning the two men and condemning the assassins, the residents said.

The bodies were flown in a Sri Lankan plane from Colombo to Trincomalee's China Bay airfield, from where an Indian Air Force helicopter took them to a site in the heart of the town. The bodies were later Sunday to be flown to nearby Batticaloa District, and taken to northern Jaffna Peninsula Monday for cremation. Mr. Amirthalingam, a livewire in Tamil politics, and Mr. Yogeswaran came from Jaffna.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant Tamil militant group now holding peace talks with the government here, has denied involvement in the killings.

Tamil sources and family members said the three gunmen who killed the TULF leaders had come saying they wanted to have a discussion on Tamil politics and opened fire suddenly after some 20 minutes of friendly discussion. [passage omitted]

In another development, the authorities imposed a curfew in a district near the Sri Lankan capital Sunday, security sources here said. The curfew was clamped in Gampaha District, which houses oil refineries and a free trade zone.

Premadasa 'Booed' in Trincomalee

BK1607150889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1449 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Madras, India, July 16 (AFP)—Hundreds of Tamils booed President Ranasinghe Premadasa when he flew into Sri Lanka's northeast Sunday [16 July] to pay homage to two Tamil leaders slain by suspected Tamil militants, Tamil sources here said.

Angry crowds screamed slogans against Mr. Premadasa, and in favour of Indian troops deployed in the island nation, when he entered a government building in Trincomalee port town to see the bodies of the politicians, the sources said. [passage omitted]

The sources, who were in touch with Colombo by telephone, said hundreds of Tamils shouted slogans asking Mr. Premadasa to go back and demanding that Indian troops remain in the island's Tamil-populated northeast. "Go back, Premadasa," and, "We want IPKF [Indian peacekeeping force]," the crowd reportedly shouted in unison, forcing the president to beat a hasty retreat, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Indian and Sri Lankan troops, providing security to the president, kept the booing crowd at a safe distance and Mr. Premadasa left the building within two minutes, the sources said. No violence was reported during the noisy demonstration. [passage omitted]

Mob Stones President's Car

BK1607170889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Thousands of people paid their homage in Trincomalee and Batticaloa today to the Sri Lanka Tamil leaders—Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran. These leaders were assassinated by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men in Colombo on Thursday. The bodies were received in Trincomalee by the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, when they were flown in from Colombo. Both the towns witnessed an unprecedented turnout of people with both Tamils and Muslims lining up the streets where the bodies were taken in silent procession.

In Trincomalee, President Premadasa also paid his homage. His motorcade was stoned by a mob. The peacekeeping force immediately swung into action and brought the situation under control and no damage was done. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan authorities have clamped a 13-hour curfew in certain areas in Gampaha District on the outskirts of Colombo today.

Assassins Identified as LTTE

BK1707075489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Madras, India, July 17 (AFP)—Sri Lankan police have identified the three assassins of two prominent Tamil leaders as members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Tamil sources said here Monday.

The three gunmen who shot dead the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leaders Appapillai Amirthalingam and V. Yogeswaran in Colombo Thursday were known by the code names of Visu, Aloysius and Sivakumar, the sources said. [passage omitted]

The sources, who are in telephonic contact with Colombo, said preliminary investigations into the slayings had led to the arrest of three more people in a Colombo residential area called Narahenpita.

Police discovered explosives, ammunition, arms, electronic detonators, grenades, a map of the slain TULF leaders' common residence and cyanide pills from the hideout, the sources said. Cyanide pills are carried by members of the LTTE, the dominant Sri Lankan Tamil militant group which is holding peace talks with the Colombo government and is simultaneously carrying on a guerrilla war against Indian troops in northern Sri Lanka.

The LTTE has denied involvement in the killings, but the sources said the group had sentenced Mr. Amirthalingam to death a few years ago for his moderate views.

The sources said Aloysius was the original contact between the LTTE and Mr. Yogeswaran, and had taken him to northern Vavuniya District in February to meet some LTTE contacts and in a bid to earn his trust. Since then, he had met Mr. Yogeswaran at least four times at his house, apparently studying its layout and the security arrangements provided to Mr. Amirthalingam as a member of Parliament. [passage omitted]

'Expelled' BBC Correspondent Comments

BK1407124289 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Jul 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has set down tough conditions for continuing the dialogue with Delhi on the withdrawal of Indian troops from the Tamil areas in the north and east of the island. The Indian prime minister, Mr Gandhi, has rejected Sri Lanka's demands for his troops to leave, saying that they would stay until the Tamil rebellion is settled. The Tamil problem is not the only pressing issue facing the Sri Lankan Government. There is also a bloody confrontation taking place in the south with mainly Sinhalese People's Liberation Front or JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. Strict news censorship is in force and BBC television reporter Katie Adie who was sent to Sri Lanka on Sunday [9 July] has now been expelled along with her camera crew. She now describes what she saw:

[Begin Adie recording] Law and order has virtually broken down in southern Sri Lanka and the government of President Premadasa is not in control of many areas. Little news of the situation is getting out, for almost total censorship is now in operation. The leftwing People's Liberation Front, the JVP, has this week shown that it can impose curfews, cause strikes, and operate with impunity; even in the capital Colombo. The JVP is extending its power and the government Armed Forces are now deployed in an increasingly violent attempt to counter it. Troops have set up numerous road blocks, especially in Colombo and have tried to break strikes, especially the month-long transport strike by forcing drivers to take out buses and riding shotgun on them. The JVP has countered by bombing buses, threatening to kill drivers and shooting government officials.

At night, random murders are common place, with the JVP, the Army and shadowy groups which are frequently alleged to be the Army operating clandestinely involved. Mutilated bodies are burned and left on the road. Human rights centers told us they have recorded the disappearance of hundreds of people in the past 2 months. Professional people—lawyers, politicians, teachers, even members of the Buddhist clergy—were too frightened to be interviewed on camera. The parents of a student, whose burnt remains turned up last week, said he had been taken away by the Army for questioning a week before. Students we spoke to at Rohana University near Matara on Tuesday, who were compiling records of students who have disappeared or been arrested, had their campus occupied by the Army 12 hours later. A lecturer at the university told us eight of the students had been stripped, beaten, ill treated, and taken away. None of this is now reported in the press, and on return to the capital we were asked to leave; if we refused, we would be expelled. [end recording]

Tamil Party Calls for Opposition Meeting

BK1307150589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 13 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil political party has called opposition leaders to a meeting to discuss devolution of powers to the island's Tamil minority, a party leader said Thursday.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) had invited all political parties, barring the ruling United National Party (UNP), to the meeting, EPRLF leader Annamalai Varadarajaperumal said.

The meeting would be held in the eastern port city of Trincomalee around July 29, the second anniversary of the signing of an Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, he said in a telephone interview from Trincomalee.

Trincomalee is the capital of the Tamil-populated north-eastern Province, which is governed by an EPRLF-led government and where India has deployed some 45,000 troops under the accord.

Mr. Varadarajaperumal, who is also the chief minister of the north-eastern Province, said the response from most opposition leaders was "encouraging" and they were expected to participate in the proposed meeting.

Mr. Varadarajaperumal added that participants in the meeting would also discuss the "present crisis" in Sri Lanka. He did not elaborate.

An EPRLF spokesman here said invitations had been extended to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mahajana Eskath Peramuna (People's United Front), the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and others.

The EPRLF is a Tamil separatist group-turned-political party which surrendered arms in line with the 1987 pact.

It won elections to the North-eastern Province in November and also has seven members in the Sri Lankan Parliament.

Security Forces Order Closure of Universities

BK1307111289 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The security forces were compelled to order the closure of universities as a temporary measure in order to prevent a small group of students from disrupting the functioning of the universities. The security forces say that these groups were intimidating and terrorizing innocent students, preventing them pursuing their studies and sitting for their examinations. They are also using the universities for subversive activities.

The security forces at a preliminary search have already found large quantities of explosives, weapons, subversive literature, and posters intimidating the public. The universities will be closed only until the security forces will complete their search and isolate the disruptive elements. As soon as this is completed, the universities will be reopened to enable the students to sit for their examinations and pursue their academic studies.

Government Warns of Bomb Attacks by Militants

BK1407103089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (AFP)—More buses returned Friday to the roads here following a wage settlement with striking workers, but Sri Lankan authorities warned of possible bomb attacks by anti-government militants.

Both state-run and private buses were seen in larger numbers Friday, a day after the government conceded increased salaries sought by some 52,000 workers of the Central Transport Board (CTB).

CTB employees struck work more than a month ago in response to a strike appeal by a shadowy trade union linked to the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front). The strike crippled essential services in the country as solidarity work stoppages spread to other sectors.

The government announced Thursday a salary increase of 180 rupees (5.20 dollars) and a special monthly allowance of 45 rupees (1.30 dollars), backdated to 1982. There was no word if the strikers had agreed to the concessions, but more private buses—which too had gone off the roads—were seen plying Thursday evening and more joined them Friday.

"About 40 to 50 per cent of the buses are now operating," said a CTB official, adding: "since today is a (Moslem) holiday, you will find more crew members reporting for work tomorrow."

But the buses were still plying with armed escort though most were near empty Friday, also a government holiday, while authorities warned that "subversives"—an euphemism for JVP rebels—might stage bomb attacks.

Authorities quoted intelligence reports as saying that bombs might be set off in buses, trains and other modes of transport in a bid to frighten people from moving about. The government said in a statement here that bus conductors had been directed to check all passengers and their baggages. Similar instructions had been issued to railway employees as well, it added.

Police and soldiers in green fatigues continued to patrol Colombo and other parts of the country as part of a crackdown on the JVP.

Hundreds of suspected "subversives" have been arrested in military sweeps since the government imposed a state of emergency last month to end a series of crippling work stoppages and continuing political violence.

The JVP, which in 1971 tried to seize power with arms, has been blamed for hundreds of deaths since India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement in July 1987 to end a Tamil separatist campaign. The JVP opposes the deployment in Sri Lanka's north-east of 45,000 Indian troops under the provisions of the accord, which it has described as a sellout to "Indian imperialism".

Premadasa Warns of External Plot, Urges Unity

BK1507114789 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] President R. Premadasa opened the first mobile presidential service office in the Amparai court premises in the Eastern Province yesterday. It will function at Amparai till tomorrow. About 5,000 grievances of the farming population of the (?Digane Wewa) District were immediately referred to 16 relevant ministry officers by the mobile service.

Addressing the gathering, the president has focused attention on a program launched by external powers to subjugate Sri Lanka. He emphasized that the people must realize the implications of this plot and be united to overcome it. He recalled a statement released during the general election promising equality to all sections of the community and solving problems through discussion.

Speaking further, the president said it was his aim to seek the support of everyone to develop the country. The presidential mobile service has been started to meet the needs of the population in remote areas. The president said the poor sections of the population in the east will be granted relief when a special program is to be launched to improve tourism on the eastern coast.

Reiterates Call for IPKF Withdrawal

BK1307133389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 13 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on Thursday [13 July] reiterated his call for a withdrawal of Indian troops from the island, but said he was ready for bilateral discussions on the subject.

"The very presence of the Indian Armed Forces in Sri Lanka has made it difficult for me to enter into any dialogue with other political groups," Mr. Premadasa said in a four-page letter to Mr. Gandhi released here.

The president, who wants the troops to quit the island republic by the end of July, challenged India's stand that the soldiers would return home only when Colombo devolved autonomy to Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community.

"The devolution of powers by the Sri Lanka Parliament is entirely an internal matter," he said in the letter, which followed a communication to him from Mr. Gandhi a day earlier, brought here by a special envoy.

Mr. Gandhi, in his letter, had said that India was ready for discussions with Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of Indian troops, but would take a unilateral decision if Colombo did not reciprocate.

Mr. Premadasa, who has previously opposed talks on the subject, said he informed Mr. Gandhi's envoy, B.G. Deshmukh, Wednesday that "the discussions can continue" with India on four premises.

He said the four premises were that the Sri Lankan president was empowered to demand the Indians' pullout, that the troops were in Sri Lanka under a bilateral pact, the devolution of powers to Tamils was not related to India's military presence, and New Delhi was violating its obligations by permitting some Tamil groups to still operate from Indian soil. [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa said the presence of Indian troops in his country was also "gravely prejudicial to a political settlement" with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), with which Colombo launched peace talks in late April. [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa said that the LTTE was asserting its "need to carry arms as long as they are being attacked by the Indian forces and other militant groups who reportedly enjoy the support of the Indian forces."

"Further, the very presence of the Indian Armed Forces in Sri Lanka has made it difficult for me to enter into any dialogue with other political groups," he added.

And in an obvious reference to anti-government militancy in Sri Lanka, he said: "In the meantime, certain groups in other parts of the country are resorting to violent activity on account of what they claim to be the inability of the government to ensure the withdrawal of the Indian Armed Forces." [passage omitted]

Earlier Thursday, remarks by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne on the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF), made at a press conference, were heavily censored by the authorities.

Mr. Wijeratne, who acts as the cabinet spokesman, said the Indian troops would be confined to the barracks in the north-east of the island after the end of July and their place taken by local security forces.

New Delhi must "show that there is a genuine effort to take the troops out," he said.

"They (Indians) themselves say that the IPKF comes under the (Sri Lankan) president. If that be the case, the order given by him must be adhered to ... the LTTE says they are still being attacked," the minister said.

India has rejected Mr. Premadasa's demands to halt the military offensive against the LTTE.

Mr. Wijeratene, however, added that talks now in Colombo between Mr. Deshmukh and Sri Lankan officials would help hammer out a solution between the two countries over the IPKF.

Mr. Deshmukh is expected to return to New Delhi on Friday after further talks.

Delhi TV Cites Premadasa Letter

BK1407021689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has agreed to the Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's demand that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal issue should be sorted out through discussions. He has stated this in a letter written by him to Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The Sri Lankan president said in that letter that the talks may be held on the basis of four [word indistinct]. One of them says that the devolution of powers to the provincial councils is not to be linked with the withdrawal of the IPKF. Another subject for discussion is the alleged propaganda by some Sri Lankan Tamil groups on Indian soil for the continued presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka.

Mr Premadasa also wants to include in the proposed discussions the point that there are no third parties to the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Agency reports say, Mr Premadasa's letter does not insist on a particular date for the withdrawal of the IPKF. The Sri Lankan president assured Mr Gandhi that his officials will continue discussions with the Indian delegation headed by Mr Deshmukh. The Sri Lankan president's letter to Mr Gandhi was released after two rounds of talks with Mr B.G. Deshmukh.

The prime minister's special emissary, Mr B.G. Deshmukh had a second meeting with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, in Colombo this morning. This was followed by discussions between the officials of the two sides. There will be another round of discussions tomorrow. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that Mr Deshmukh also called on several important Sri Lankan political leaders, including the former President, Mr Jayewardene; the opposition leader, Mrs Bandaranaike; senior Sri Lankan ministers Mr Gamini Dissanayake and Lalith Athulathmudali.

The Sri Lankan minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr John Amaratunge hosted a lunch in honor of Mr Deshmukh this afternoon. It was attended by several ministers, including the foreign minister [Wijeratne] and senior officials of Sri Lanka.

Yesterday, Mr Deshmukh had the first round of talks with the Sri Lankan president. During that meeting, Mr Deshmukh handed over a letter written by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to the Sri Lankan president. Mr Deshmukh and Mr Premadasa held discussions for about 20 minutes all by themselves.

Later the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan foreign minister, and the foreign secretary of that country joined them.

Addressing newsmen in Colombo, Mr Wijeratne expressed the hope that the discussions between Mr Rajiv Gandhi's special emissary and the Sri Lankan officials would lead to a settlement of the IPKF withdrawal issue. The Sri Lankan foreign minister said his president always believes in resolving problems through consultations. However, agency reports quoting Mr Wijeratne said he reiterated that the IPKF will have to go back to the barracks, when the unilateral deadline set by Mr Premadasa for its withdrawal expires this month. The Sri Lankan foreign minister told newsmen that his country's decision is being communicated to Mr Rajiv Gandhi in Paris.

The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has welcomed the Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's decision that the IPKF will be withdrawn only after the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Speaking in Trincomalee today, Mr Perumal expressed the hope that the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, will respond positively to Mr Gandhi's letter.

Meanwhile, the 1-month-old bus workers strike in Sri Lanka ended today. This follows an assurance by the country's transport minister to grant their major demands. The workers have also been assured that no disciplinary action will be taken against them.

Premadasa Reply to Gandhi

BK1407113889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi's, special envoy, B.G. Deshmukh, has handed over a letter from the Indian leader to President Premadasa. According to the letter, Mr Gandhi has said that the situation in the Northeast is far more settled and peaceful than elsewhere in Sri Lanka. He said despite all this the devolution package promised to the Tamils had not been implemented.

President Premadasa in his reply has said that the Indian troops came to Sri Lanka at the request of the president of Sri Lanka and were under his command as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Their invitation was in terms of item six of the annex to the India-Sri Lanka Agreement which says that an Indian peacekeeping contingent may be invited by the president of Sri Lanka to guarantee and enforce the cessation of hostilities, if so required.

Secondly, the agreement was between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India. There were no other parties to the agreement. In fact, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] protested that they were left out of the agreement and their leaders had been confined for a duration of time leading up to the signing of the agreement.

Mr Premadasa said that, thirdly, the presence of the Indian Armed Forces and the devolution of powers to the provincial councils were totally unconnected. He said he had explained this to Mr Gandhi at length in his earlier communication.

Fourthly, the Government of India undertook not to permit Indian territory to be used for the activities prejudicial to the unity, integrity, and security of Sri Lanka. I [Premadasa] was constrained to point out to your delegation that Mr Padamanabha [member of the ruling Tamil party of Northeast Provincial Council] and others who are campaigning to keep the Indian Armed Forces in Sri Lanka were not only permitted to publicly express their intentions of making a unilateral declaration of Eelam [separate homeland for Tamils] whilst being on Indian soil, but also to publicize such a declaration on Indian national television.

The LTTE, once the most intractable of the militant groups, has (?ceased) all hostilities not only against the government, but against all the people of the north and the east, and indeed against all the people of Sri Lanka. They have agreed to join the democratic process and are now committed to settling problems by negotiations.

In this context, the president said, continued military action by the Indian Armed Forces is not only unnecessary, but also prejudicial to settlement by discussion and negotiation.

Provincial Council Calls For Talks With India

BK1507134889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Northeastern Provincial Council called Saturday for talks between Colombo and New Delhi to resolve the impasse over the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

"India and Sri Lanka must start talking. This is the only way to find a solution," Joe Senaviratne, planning and youth affairs minister in the council, told reporters here.

"We are requesting the two countries to sit down and talk," he said.

Sri Lanka's President Ranasinghe Premadasa has asked India to withdraw its estimated 45,000 troops from the island's Tamil-populated northeast, which the council administers.

The provincial government, set up following elections in November, is controlled by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a key Tamil separatist group-turned-political party.

Mr. Senaviratne said that if "anything happened" between Indian and Sri Lankan troops, "our people (in the northeast) will be in a helpless situation... The whole responsibility is on the Sri Lankan Government."

The EPRLF and most Tamil groups in Sri Lanka have opposed Mr. Premadasa's call for a withdrawal of Indian troops by the end of July.

But the demand has been supported by most Sri Lankan political parties.

Mr. Senaviratne said the provincial council was for the "unity and integrity" of Sri Lanka, and denied reports that it was planning to declare a separate homeland this month.

Some Tamil groups, including the EPRLF, have threatened to announce an independent state called Eelam if Colombo dismissed the council to appease the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE, which does not recognise the provincial council, has been holding peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government since late April. It is also waging a bush war against Indian troops deployed in the island nation.

India deployed its troops in Sri Lanka under a 1987 bilateral peace pact that sought to end Tamil separatism and devolve limited autonomy to the island's Tamil minority. The LTTE has repudiated the accord.